

HORIZONS INVESTORS CORP
Form PRRN14A
June 24, 2004

PRELIMINARY COPY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED

June 24, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. 3)

Filed by the Registrant Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-11(c) or §240.14a-12

EMERGING VISION, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

HORIZONS INVESTORS CORP.

(Name(s) of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

N/A

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

N/A

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

N/A

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

N/A

(3) Filing Party:

N/A

(4) Date Filed:

N/A

Horizons Investors Corp.

P.O. Box 221

Brooklyn, NY 11208-0221

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

The enclosed proxy statement and the enclosed BLUE proxy card are being furnished to shareholders of Emerging Vision, Inc., a New York corporation (Emerging Vision or the Company), by Horizons Investors Corp., a New York corporation (Horizons), in connection with the solicitation of proxies from shareholders of Emerging Vision (the Shareholders) to be used at the 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, including any adjournments or postponements thereof, to: (a) elect two (2) Class I Directors to the Company s Board of Directors to hold office until the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Company or until their respective successors shall be elected and have qualified; and (b) elect three (3) Class II Directors to the Company s Board of Directors to hold office until the 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Company or until their respective successors shall be elected and have qualified.

Horizons does not believe that the current Board of Directors, other than Benito R. Fernandez, who is Horizons president, is acting in your best interests, and is therefore seeking your support for the election of Horizons slate of nominees to the Emerging Vision Board of Directors at the annual meeting of shareholders scheduled to be held at the offices of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, 200 Park Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, New York 10166, on the 14th day of July 2004, at 10:00 a.m. (local time).

You may have received, or will be receiving, a separate proxy solicitation from the Company. For all of the reasons discussed in the materials included with this letter, Horizons strongly urges you to REJECT the solicitation made by the Company and NOT sign any WHITE proxy card that it sends to you. Horizons and each member of its proposed slate of directors who is a shareholder of the Company are rejecting the Company s proposals.

If you have already voted for the incumbent management slate, you have every right to change your vote by signing and returning a later dated BLUE proxy.

It is important that your shares of Emerging Vision common stock be represented and voted at the Annual Meeting. Accordingly, regardless of whether you plan to attend the Annual Meeting in person, please complete, date, sign and return the enclosed BLUE proxy card in the envelope provided, which requires no postage if mailed in the United States. Even if you return a signed BLUE proxy card, you may still attend the Annual Meeting and vote your shares in person. Every shareholder s vote is important, whether you own a few shares or many.

Thank you for your support.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Benito R. Fernandez

President

Horizons Investors Corp.

HORIZONS INVESTORS CORP.

P.O. BOX 221

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11208-0221

[PRELIMINARY] PROXY STATEMENT

IN OPPOSITION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To Fellow Shareholders of Emerging Vision, Inc.:

This Proxy Statement is furnished by Horizons Investors Corp. (Horizons) in connection with its solicitation of proxies to be used at the 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Emerging Vision, Inc. (Emerging Vision or the Company) to be held at the offices of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, 200 Park Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, New York 10166, on the 14th day of July 2004, at 10:00 a.m. (local time), including any adjournments or postponements thereof (the Annual Meeting). This Proxy Statement and the enclosed form of proxy are first being sent to shareholders by Horizons on or about June [], 2004. Only shareholders of record at the close of business on May 25, 2004 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting.

Horizons is soliciting proxies in support of:

(1) the election of:

(a) two (2) Class I Directors to Emerging Vision s Board of Directors to hold office until the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Emerging Vision or until their respective successors shall be elected and have qualified and proposes for election Norman Greene and Joseph Rodriguez Erazo as Class I Directors; and

(b) three (3) Class II Directors to Emerging Vision s Board of Directors to hold office until the 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Emerging Vision or until their respective successors shall be elected and have qualified and proposes for election Benito R. Fernandez, Herman Badillo and Aureo Ivan Cardona as the Class II Directors; and

(2) the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment, adjournments, postponements or continuations thereof.

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According to Emerging Vision's proxy statement, as of the close of business on May 25, 2004, there were 70,323,698 shares of Emerging Vision's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the Common Stock) outstanding, each share of Common Stock being entitled to one vote on all matters presented at the Annual Meeting, and 0.74 shares of Senior Convertible Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the Preferred Stock) and, together with the Common Stock, hereinafter collectively referred to as the Capital Stock) entitled to vote, on an as if converted basis, together with the Common Stock as a single class, 98,519 shares of Common Stock, for a total of 70,422,217 voting shares (collectively, the Voting Shares). The principal executive offices of Emerging Vision, Inc., a New York corporation, are located at 100 Quentin Roosevelt Boulevard, Garden City, New York 11530.

Horizons is soliciting proxies from the holders of Capital Stock to elect the five individuals named below under the heading PROPOSED DIRECTORS OF EMERGING VISION as directors at the Annual Meeting. Since Horizons is nominating individuals with respect to only five of the six Board seats, if you return a BLUE proxy card, you will not be able to vote for a nominee for the sixth Board seat.

Horizons, along with all of the participants in this solicitation as identified in the section entitled Participants in the Solicitation, is the beneficial owner of an aggregate of 23,926,531 Voting Shares, representing approximately 34% of the Voting Shares. The participants in this solicitation intend to vote such shares for the election of the persons named above for election as Class I and Class II Directors.

HORIZONS RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE PERSONS NAMED ABOVE AS DIRECTORS OF EMERGING VISION BY COMPLETING, SIGNING, DATING AND MAILING PROMPTLY THE ENCLOSED BLUE PROXY CARD IN THE POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE PROVIDED.

HORIZONS URGES YOU NOT TO SIGN ANY WHITE PROXY CARD SENT TO YOU BY EMERGING VISION. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE SO, YOU MAY REVOKE YOUR PREVIOUSLY SIGNED PROXY BY DELIVERING A WRITTEN NOTICE OF REVOCATION OR A LATER DATED BLUE PROXY CARD IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

Any proxy executed by a holder of Common Stock or Preferred Stock may be revoked at any time prior to its exercise by filing a written notice of revocation with the Secretary of Emerging Vision prior to the Annual Meeting or with the secretary of the Annual Meeting during the Annual Meeting or by submitting a later dated proxy. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not be sufficient to revoke a proxy unless the shareholder files a written notice of revocation with the secretary of the Annual Meeting.

Horizons has retained The Altman Group, Inc. (The Altman Group) to assist in communicating with shareholders in connection with the proxy solicitation and to assist in its efforts to obtain proxies. If you have any questions about how to complete or submit your BLUE proxy card or any other questions, The Altman Group will be pleased to assist you.

If you have any questions concerning this Proxy Statement or need assistance in voting, please call:

THE ALTMAN GROUP, INC.

1275 Valley Brook Avenue

Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071

Toll Free: (800) 317-7962

REASONS FOR THE SOLICITATION

EMERGING VISION'S PERFORMANCE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS HAS, IN OUR OPINION, BEEN DISASTROUS FOR SHAREHOLDERS

Horizons became a shareholder of Emerging Vision in 2001. Emerging Vision's performance over that time has, in our opinion, been a disaster for Emerging Vision's shareholders. Consider the following points:

As a result of the Company's failure to meet specified minimum listing requirements, the Company was delisted from the Nasdaq National Market in August 2001. Since the delisting, the price of the Company's Common Stock has floundered, never exceeding \$.25. The market price as of June [], 2004 was \$[], a significant decline from \$6.75 on January 1, 2000, less than five years ago.

Emerging Vision has lost money every year for the past three years. As reported in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for 2003, it had an aggregate NET LOSS over the past three years in excess of \$11 million, with losses of \$3.8 million, \$4.6 million and \$3.0 million in 2001, 2002 and 2003, respectively.

Emerging Vision's accumulated deficit at December 31, 2003 was \$127 million, and it had a shareholders deficit (negative equity) of \$762,000.

As reported by Emerging Vision in its proxy statement, the market performance of Emerging Vision's stock during the past five years has been terrible. Based on the plot points contained on the Stock Price Performance Graph contained in the Company's proxy statement, starting at December 31, 1998, a \$100 investment would have been worth approximately the following amounts at December 31, 2003:

S&P 500	\$ 98
Peer Group Companies	\$ 84
Emerging Vision	\$ 4

WE BELIEVE IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

As shown by Emerging Vision's own proxy statement, Emerging Vision is being run by its OWN COMPETITORS.

I. Cohen Fashion Optical

Alan Cohen and Robert Cohen (the Cohen Brothers) own only 4.8% and 4.3%, respectively, of the Common Stock of Emerging Vision. Their interest in a number of Emerging Vision's competitors, which they operate and control, is far greater. As stated in Emerging Vision's proxy statement, the Cohen Brothers are both directors, principal shareholders and officers of Cohen Fashion

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Optical, Inc. (Cohen Optical) and its affiliated company, Real Optical, LLC (Real). Cohen Optical and Real stores are said by Emerging Vision in its proxy statement to be similar to the Company s retail optical stores. Further, *like Emerging Vision*, CFO has been offering franchises. As of March 2004, approximately 15 Cohen Optical stores were located in the *same shopping center or mall* as, or in close proximity to, certain of the Company s retail optical stores. (emphasis added)

Further, the Cohen Brothers admit in Emerging Vision s proxy statement that it is possible that one or more additional Cohen Optical stores may in the future be located near one or more of the Company s retail optical stores thereby *competing directly* with such Company stores.

The Cohen Brothers acknowledge that they are the principal shareholders of Cohen Optical, while they hold less than 10% of the stock of Emerging Vision. In our opinion, it is inappropriate for the officers, directors and principal shareholders to have substantial interests in competing enterprises. Shareholders are entitled to have a Board of Directors that is 100% focused on the success of our Company.

In addition, Emerging Vision subleases from Cohen Optical a portion of Cohen Optical's office space. Occupancy costs are allocated between the Company and Cohen Optical. While we originally supported the Company's move of its headquarters in 2002 from one Cohen controlled property to another to save money in the short term, after becoming more fully educated about the relationship between the Company and Cohen Optical over the past three years, we now consider it inappropriate for the Company to share office space with its competitor, Cohen Optical.

II. GVS

According to Emerging Vision's proxy statement, Alan Cohen and Robert Cohen and certain members of their respective immediate families also are the principal owners of General Vision Services, LLC (GVS). GVS operates approximately 24 retail optical stores principally in the New Jersey and New York metropolitan area, which stores are again said in the Company's proxy statement to be similar to the retail optical stores operated and franchised by the Company. As an additional element of competition, it is disclosed by the Cohen Brothers in the Company's proxy statement that GVS solicits and administers third party benefit programs similar to those being administered by the Company. The Cohens also acknowledge that it is possible that GVS stores or other retail optical stores which provide third party benefit plans administered by GVS may now or in the future be located near one or more of the Company's retail optical stores and may be *competing directly* with such stores. Again, we think it is totally inappropriate for the Cohens to be running Emerging Vision when such blatant conflicts of interest exist with GVS. According to Emerging Vision's Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2000, GVS acquired substantially all of the assets of General Vision Services, Inc.

III. Vision World.

As if this were not enough, as acknowledged in Emerging Vision's proxy statement, in October 2003, Vision World, LLC which is beneficially owned, in principal part, by Robert and Alan Cohen and members of their family, acquired substantially all the assets of Eyeglass Service Industries' third party administration business. Vision World solicits and administers third-party benefit programs *similar to those being administered by the Company*. The Cohens acknowledge in the Emerging Vision proxy statement that it is possible that a Vision World store, or another retail optical store which provides third-party benefit plans administered by Vision World, may now or in the future be located near one or more of the Company's retail optical stores and may be competing directly with such store. So, now the Cohens are the principal owners of a THIRD competitor of the Company.

Cohen Optical, GVS and Vision World are privately-held companies of the Cohen Brothers, so that their financial statements are not publicly available. However, based on conversations with the Cohens, Horizons believes that both GVS and Cohen Optical are profitable enterprises, while your Company has suffered nothing but losses, despite operating in the same industry. Horizons does not understand why that should be. Horizons believes that with a new Board of Directors working for you, the shareholders of Emerging Vision, and not its competitors, the Company can focus solely on the Company's business and prospects with profitability as the goal. While we cannot provide any assurance that a change in the composition of the Company's Board of Directors will allow the Company to achieve profitability, we do believe that by ending the ever-present conflicts of interest within Emerging Vision, the Company's prospects will be improved.

THE COHENS HAVE DIVERTED CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES OF EMERGING VISION FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT

In or around 2003, Mr. Fernandez learned that three different New York City hospitals Metropolitan Hospital, Lincoln Hospital and Harlem Hospital had space available for retail optical stores for their patients and employees. Mr. Fernandez passed this information along to Alan and Robert Cohen believing that this presented Emerging Vision with a great opportunity to open new stores, either directly by the Company or via new franchises. However, instead of starting new Sterling Optical franchises in those hospitals, the Cohen Brothers used those hospital locations to initiate three new GVS franchises, thereby benefiting one of their competing retail optical companies at the expense of Emerging Vision.

Further, as stated above, in October 2003, the Cohens had another of their privately owned companies acquire all of the assets of Eyeglass Service Industries, which solicits and administers third party benefit programs similar to those being administered by the Company. Yet, they did not make this opportunity available or known to Emerging Vision.

In both of these situations, the opportunity was never presented to Emerging Vision's Board for consideration. Rather, the opportunities were simply diverted to other entities controlled by the Cohens. The Cohens claim that Emerging Vision lacked the resources or had decided not to pursue these types of opportunities. However, it is not for the Cohens alone to decide which opportunities will be pursued by the Company and which will not. Horizons has in the past provided financing for Emerging Vision, and might again in the future if opportunities were presented in advance to the Emerging Vision Board. The decision whether to pursue an opportunity should be made by a Board of Directors unaffected by conflicts of interest, not by competitors.

HORIZONS HAS COMMITTED TO GOOD CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AT EMERGING VISION

Good corporate governance is critical in the United States today. As the recent spate of corporate scandals has demonstrated, proper corporate governance is critical to protecting shareholders. Recent changes in the law and corporate regulation have emphasized a need for independent directors, independent audit, compensation and nominating committees, internal controls and audits and a lack of conflicts of interest. We believe that Emerging Vision's corporate governance practices are suspect. For instance:

Emerging Vision failed to have an annual meeting of shareholders in 2003.

Three of Emerging Vision's current directors, Robert Cohen, Alan Cohen and Joel Gold, have not been elected by the shareholders since 2001.

We think that the recommendation of Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. (ISS), a leading independent proxy advisory firm, in its analysis dated June 4, 2004 (before it was aware of this election contest), is particularly instructive. ISS recommends that shareholders withhold votes from Christopher G. Payan, Robert Cohen and Alan Cohen, for failure to establish a board with a majority of independent directors. Since the company's stock is not listed on an exchange nor quoted on Nasdaq, we believe that it is appropriate to use ISS' definition of independent, which is simply no connection to the company other than the board seat. When we use the term independent in this Proxy Statement, we are using the ISS definition.

Neither the Audit Committee nor the Compensation Committee is currently composed of a majority of independent directors. The Cohen Brothers currently constitute a majority of both committees.

The Cohen Brothers also constitute a majority of the Executive Committee of the Board.

We note that the Company recently announced that Christopher Payan was appointed Chief Executive Officer by the Executive Committee of Emerging Vision's Board. However, we believe that Mr. Payan lacks the experience that is necessary to run Emerging Vision. As reflected in the Company's proxy statement, Mr. Payan has five years of accounting experience with Arthur Andersen and three years of experience with the Company. Yet, he apparently has no prior experience in franchising, healthcare or managing multi-million dollar public (or private) companies. Maybe the Cohens believe that Mr. Payan, at 29, is the right man to run your company, but we do not. Who is in charge?

Mr. Fernandez had been the chair of the Audit Committee until April 2004. Prior to the issuance of the Company's 2003 audited financial statements, Mr. Fernandez sought to engage a firm to conduct an internal audit of the Company's financial statements, as he was concerned with having a number of matters reviewed, including the large number of related party transactions. While all of the

members of the Company's audit committee initially agreed with Mr. Fernandez and supported such an audit, we

believe that after the other audit committee members (Mr. Gold and Mr. Robert Cohen) spoke with the Company's general counsel, they withdrew their support and blocked Mr. Fernandez's efforts to have such an audit conducted by the Company's auditors.

In July, 2002 general counsel to the Company advised the Board that it was imperative that a new board member be found to replace William Stasior who had announced his intention to resign as a Director. Mr. Fernandez proposed Joseph Erazo to Emerging Vision's Board. The Board at a July 22, 2002 meeting agreed to consider potential qualified independent candidates. To our knowledge, the Board never took any additional action with regard to Mr. Erazo and no other candidate was ever presented to the Board. Instead, in 2004, Emerging Vision's Board (over the objection of Mr. Fernandez) elected 29 year old insider Christopher Payan to your Board. In May 2004, Mr. Fernandez provided the Board with resumes and other information concerning each of the nominees for directors being presented by Horizons in this Proxy Statement. The Board took no action at any meeting to review those candidates' qualifications nor did it interview the individuals suggested. Instead, one business day after receiving Mr. Fernandez's list of proposed candidates, the current Board, over Mr. Fernandez's objection, without discussion at the meeting nominated its own slate of directors, set a record date, and set a date for this annual meeting. They hastily took those actions despite the fact that no annual meeting had been held for two years.

To further frustrate shareholder democracy, despite three requests, and despite the status of Mr. Fernandez as the largest shareholder and a director of Emerging Vision, the Company refused to provide Mr. Fernandez with a current shareholders list so that he could pursue a free and fair election of directors. Mr. Fernandez made the requests on three occasions. After the first two requests, the Company's general counsel wrote Mr. Fernandez and claimed without citing any authority that the requests did not comply with applicable law. The third request was also met with a response from the general counsel to the same effect (although, this time a seven month old shareholders list was provided). Mr. Fernandez had to resort to litigation to obtain the lists that directors and all shareholders are generally entitled to receive. Without current lists, our ability to communicate with our fellow shareholders - a right that is basic to all shareholders - is significantly limited.

In the Company's proxy statement, the Company claims that it will now reconstitute the committees of the Board to be more independent. We believe that it has taken this position now only in response to Horizons' efforts to obtain a shareholder list and field a rival slate of candidates. Further, it is still not willing to have a board controlled by independent directors.

AS A LARGE SHAREHOLDER OF EMERGING VISION, WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAXIMIZING VALUE FOR ALL OF EMERGING VISION S SHAREHOLDERS

Horizons is the largest shareholder of the Company (approximately 34%) and owns more Common Stock than any other individual shareholder. As such, we believe that our interests are aligned with yours. We are not interested in the positions and perks of directorship; we do not own any competitors. Rather, we want to maximize the value of Emerging Vision s common stock for the benefit of all shareholders. Our nominees are committed to:

Ensuring that the Company undergo a thorough and comprehensive strategic review of its operations and of all transactions and agreements between the Company and the Cohen Brothers and their and their family s entities.

Reviewing the qualifications and performance of all existing management and seeking to attract new management talent as desirable.

Acting like a public company. We will have annual meetings *every* year. Our nominees will immediately implement quarterly conference calls in order to provide shareholders with greater transparency into the workings of the Company. We will not be run for the benefit of one family.

Operating without conflicts of interest.

Having a completely independent Audit Committee. Horizons currently intends to support the Cohens nominee, Seymour G. Siegel, and has nominated Norman Greene, because we feel it is critical that the Audit Committee be filled with individuals who can effectively work with our outside auditors and who have a full understanding of financial statements and accounting.

Acting responsibly. The Company s 2003 annual report lists 17 different material litigation actions to which the Company is subject, in addition to litigation in the ordinary course. As previously noted, we had to initiate litigation just to get a shareholders list. We intend to be better corporate citizens.

We want to maximize value for all Emerging Vision shareholders. No assurance can be given that we will be successful, but we can assure that the Company is operated for the benefit of *all* shareholders, free of any conflicts of interest with our competitors. In our view, the performance of the incumbent slate has not served the interests of the shareholders. Their record speaks for itself. We believe they have had their chance and now it is time for a change.

PENDING LITIGATION

On May 28, 2004, Horizons and Mr. Fernandez commenced an action in the Supreme Court of New York, Nassau County, against Emerging Vision and the other incumbent members of the board -- Alan Cohen, Robert Cohen, Joel L. Gold and Christopher G. Payan -- seeking injunctive and declaratory relief to, among other things, obtain a shareholder s list and restrain Emerging Vision from holding its annual shareholders meeting on June 22, 2004 until such time as Horizons and Mr. Fernandez were provided a meaningful opportunity to solicit proxies from all shareholders. On June 2, 2004, after Horizons and Mr. Fernandez had made an application for a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction, the defendants removed the action to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. A hearing was held before the Honorable Thomas C. Platt, U.S.D.J., who directed the parties to submit further supporting and opposing papers. On June 11, 2004, Horizons and Mr. Fernandez filed an amended complaint, which contained additional claims against the defendants, including, among other things, (i) breach of fiduciary duty based on the defendants hasty scheduling of the June 22 annual meeting date at a May 24 board meeting, and based on the defendants refusal to conduct an internal control audit, (ii) violation of Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 14a-9 promulgated thereunder, for making false and misleading statements in Emerging Vision s proxy statement, (iii)

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violation of Section 624 of the New York Business Corporation Law for failing to provide Horizons and Mr. Fernandez with

a current and complete list of Emerging Vision's shareholders, and (iv) violation of Section 8 of the Clayton Act, due to the fact that Alan and Robert Cohen serve on the board of directors of both Emerging Vision and its direct competitor, Cohen Optical. On June 16, 2004, Judge Platt denied Horizons' and Mr. Fernandez' application for injunctive relief.

PROPOSED DIRECTORS OF EMERGING VISION

Horizons has advised Emerging Vision that at the Annual Meeting it intends to nominate the five individuals named below to serve as directors of Emerging Vision. Under Emerging Vision's by-laws, directors elected at the Annual Meeting will serve in such capacity until the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders in the case of the Class I Directors and until the 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders in the case of the Class II Directors and until their successors have been duly elected and qualified. Unless otherwise stated, each nominee has sole voting power and sole investment power with respect to the shares of Capital Stock beneficially owned by such nominee and each nominee is the beneficial owner of all shares held of record by such nominee.

In addition to those five individuals, Horizons currently intends to vote its shares in favor of the election as director of Seymour G. Siegel. Mr. Siegel is one of the Company's nominees and is a certified public accountant with the firm of Rothstein, Kass & Company, P.C.

Biographical Information

Name and Address	Age	Director Since	Other Directorships
Joseph R. Erazo 225 Broadway New York, NY 10007	68	N/A	
Norman Greene Greene & Co., LLP 445 Broadhollow Rd. Melville, NY 11747	68	N/A	
Benito R. Fernandez Horizons Investors Corp 131 Lancaster Street Albany, NY 12210	62	2001	
Herman Badillo 907 Third Ave. New York, NY 10022	74	N/A	Asta Funding, Inc.

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Aureo Ivan Cardona

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N/A

288 Alexander Ave.
Mott Haven, NY 10454

The principal occupations and employment of each such person during the past five years is set forth below. In each instance in which dates are not provided in connection with a nominee's business experience, such nominee has held the position indicated for at least the past five years.

CLASS I

Joseph R. Erazo is an attorney and has been with the firm of Erazo & Erazo since 1999. From 1998 to 1999, Mr. Erazo was Executive Director - City of New York Correctional Health Services, Health and Hospitals Corporation, and from 1990 to 1997, was Executive Director and General Counsel, Nassau County Medical Center/A. Holly Patterson Geriatric Center. Mr. Erazo has also served as General Counsel and Secretary to the Board of Directors, NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation from 1977 to 1981, and Director of Special Programs and Secretary to Mayor's Cabinet, Office of the Mayor from 1974 to 1977. Mr. Erazo received a juris doctorate from New York Law School, a masters in philosophy from New York University, a masters of arts from New York University and a bachelor of arts from the University of Illinois.

Norman Greene is a certified public accountant and has been with Greene & Company, LLP since 1996. He has more than 40 years of accounting experience. Mr. Greene received a bachelor of arts from Baruch School, City College of New York.

CLASS II

Benito R. Fernandez was appointed a director of the Company as of June 12, 2001. Since 1986, Mr. Fernandez has been the President of Horizons, located in Albany, New York, an entity which owns, develops and manages real estate properties, and which also acts as agent for various companies in the health field, as well as the President of Horizons Hotels Corp., located in San Juan, Puerto Rico, which owns and manages hotel properties. In addition, since 1980, Mr. Fernandez has been the President of the Brooklyn Manor Group, located in Brooklyn, New York, an entity which owns and manages a health care facility and acts as a consultant to various health related facilities; and, since 1973, has been the President of Typhoon Fence of L.I., Inc., the operator of a fence construction company located in Long Island, New York. Mr. Fernandez, who is a former member of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Advisory Council of Small Business and Agriculture, graduated from the City University of the City of New York in 1966, where he received his B.A. In 1999, he received The South Bronx Board of Trades and The Somos Uno Foundation Award for outstanding professional leadership in economic development; in 1995, he received the Bedford Stuyvesant Y.M.C.A. Man of the Year Award; and, in 1990, he received the New York State Puerto Rican/Hispanic Legislator Task Force Conference Center Award for excellence in advancing business opportunities for Puerto Ricans and Latinos.

Herman Badillo is an attorney and is a founding partner of Fischbein Badillo Wagner Harding, for which he has worked since 1979 (other than during his bid to become mayor of New York City in 2001). Mr. Badillo served in the United States House of Representatives for seven years beginning in 1971. Mr. Badillo is also a former Deputy Mayor of Management and Deputy Mayor for Policy of the City of New York, Borough President of The Bronx, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Relocation and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York. Mr. Badillo received a bachelor of business administration, magna cum laude from the City College of New York and a juris doctorate, cum laude, from Brooklyn Law School.

Aureo Ivan Cardona has been a real estate developer for over 35 years. Since 1999, Mr. Cardona has been a consultant for Acrescendo Inc. He has served as President of The South Bronx Community Housing Corporation and as chairman of The South Bronx Community Planning Board One. He founded and was Chairman of The National Hispanic Housing Coalition and served as Senior Vice President of the National Center for Housing Management. He has worked with the housing authorities of Washington, D.C. and New Mexico and the community development institutions of Chicago, San Antonio, Detroit and Phoenix. Mr. Cardona has also worked with the United Nations Center for Housing Settlements in Nairobi, Kenya.

Share Ownership

Name of Beneficial Owner	Class of Capital Stock	Shares of	Percent of
		Common Stock Beneficially Owned	Outstanding Common Stock
Herman Badillo	N/A	N/A	N/A
Aureo Ivan Cardona	N/A	N/A	N/A
Joseph R. Erazo	N/A	N/A	N/A
Norman Greene	N/A	N/A	N/A
Benito R. Fernandez	Common Stock	23,926,531(1)	34%

- (1) This number represents shares of Common Stock held by Horizons which is owned by Mr. Fernandez, and includes the right to acquire 200,000 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of presently exercisable, outstanding options, but excludes the right to acquire 31,067,776 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of outstanding warrants that are not exercisable until April 15, 2006.

Each of Horizons' nominees has consented to be named in this Proxy Statement and to serve as a director of Emerging Vision, if elected. If at the time of the Annual Meeting any nominee is unable or unwilling to serve as a director, the discretionary authority provided in the proxy will be exercised to vote for a substitute designated by Horizons. Horizons has no reason to believe that any of the nominees will be unable or unwilling to serve as a director, if elected.

Other than as described in this Proxy Statement or in Appendix A hereto, none of Horizons' five nominees for director named in this Proxy Statement nor Horizons or any other person who may solicit proxies on its behalf (or, to the knowledge of such persons, any associate thereof) (i) has purchased or sold any class of securities of Emerging Vision within the past two years, (ii) has borrowed funds for the purpose of acquiring or holding any shares of Capital Stock purchased by such person within the past two years, (iii) is now or within the past year has been a party to any contract, arrangement or understanding with any person with respect to any class of any securities of Emerging Vision, (iv) has or will have a direct or indirect material interest in any transaction, or series of similar transactions, since the beginning of Emerging Vision's last fiscal year, or any currently proposed transaction, or series of similar transactions, to which Emerging Vision was or is to be a party and in which the amount involved exceeds \$60,000, or (v) has any arrangement or understanding with any person with respect to any future employment with Emerging Vision or its affiliates or any future transactions to which Emerging Vision or any of its affiliates will or may be a party.

Additional information not set forth elsewhere in this Proxy Statement regarding certain transactions between Emerging Vision and Horizons and its nominees for election as directors and their associates is set forth in Appendix A hereto. There are no present plans, understandings or arrangements whereby Horizons, any of its members, or any of its nominees for election as directors (or, to the knowledge of such persons, any associate thereof) will acquire any of Emerging Vision's operations or assets.

The persons named as proxies in the accompanying BLUE proxy card of Horizons intend to vote FOR Horizons' nominees unless specifically instructed to the contrary by the person executing the proxy card. The votes cast at the Annual Meeting may result in the election to the Board of Directors of some of the persons on whose behalf Horizons is soliciting proxies and some of Emerging Vision's nominees. If the persons for whom Horizons is soliciting proxies constitute less than a majority of the full Board of Directors, they may be unable to influence the direction of Emerging Vision in the future.

If some of the persons supported by Horizons and some of Emerging Vision's nominees are elected, those persons who are nominees of Horizons intend to serve their terms as directors. Horizons is unable to predict whether any nominees of Emerging Vision will agree to serve on a Board of Directors comprised in part of Horizons' nominees. In the event that vacancies on the Board of Directors are created by the refusal of any of these

persons to serve with Horizons' nominees, Horizons intends to take all actions necessary to fill those vacancies, subject to the requirements of New York law and the by-laws of Emerging Vision.

The persons receiving the greatest number of votes for the number of directors to be elected will be elected the directors of Emerging Vision.

YOU ARE URGED TO VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE PERSONS NAMED ABOVE AS DIRECTORS OF EMERGING VISION BY COMPLETING, SIGNING, DATING AND MAILING PROMPTLY THE ENCLOSED BLUE PROXY CARD IN THE POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE PROVIDED.

VOTING AND REVOCATION OF PROXIES

The proxies solicited by Horizons will be voted at the Annual Meeting for the election of its nominees to the Board of Directors of Emerging Vision unless specifically directed otherwise. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, Horizons is not aware of any other matters to be presented for action at the Annual Meeting other than the election of directors. However, should any other business properly come before the Annual Meeting, Horizons enclosed BLUE proxy card will confer upon the persons named as proxies therein discretionary authority to vote the shares represented thereby in respect of such other business.

Execution of Horizons BLUE proxy card will not affect a shareholder's right to attend the Annual Meeting and to vote in person. In addition, execution of the Company's proxy card does not affect a shareholder's right to revoke that proxy and execute the BLUE proxy card provided by Horizons. A shareholder who executes and delivers a proxy may revoke it at any time prior to its exercise by filing a written notice of revocation with the Secretary of Emerging Vision prior to the Annual Meeting or with the secretary of the Annual Meeting during the Annual Meeting or by submitting a later dated proxy. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not be sufficient to revoke a proxy unless the shareholder files a written notice of revocation with the secretary of the Annual Meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please complete, sign and date Horizons enclosed BLUE proxy card and return it in the accompanying envelope as soon as possible. We note that Emerging Vision has stated in its proxy statement that in order to revoke a previously provided proxy without attending the Annual Meeting and without delivering a later dated proxy that a shareholder must deliver...via certified mail - return receipt requested, written notice of revocation to the Secretary of the Company, which notice must be received by 5:00 p.m. (local time) on July 13, 2004, at the Company's executive offices at 100 Quentin Roosevelt Blvd., Suite 508, Garden City, New York 11530. We do not believe that Emerging Vision has a legal basis for not accepting any revocation, irrespective of the method of delivery, that is delivered prior to the Annual Meeting.

VOTE REQUIRED

A majority of the shares outstanding on the record date will constitute a quorum for purposes of the Annual Meeting. Assuming that a quorum is present, the election of directors will be effected by a plurality vote. For purposes of determining the votes cast with respect to any matter presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting, only those votes cast for or against are included. The term broker non-vote refers to shares held in street name that are not voted with respect to a particular matter, generally because the beneficial owner did not give any instructions to the broker as to how to vote such shares and the broker is not permitted under applicable rules to vote such shares in its discretion because of the subject matter of the proposal. While Horizons notes that its view is not without doubt, since there is no matter proposed in the Company's proxy statement on which brokers may vote, we believe broker non-votes will not count either as to the existence of a quorum or with respect to the outcome of any vote.

SOLICITATION EXPENSES

The expenses of preparing, printing and distributing this Proxy Statement and the accompanying form of proxy and the cost of soliciting proxies for the election of Horizons' nominees will be borne by Horizons. Such expenses are estimated to be approximately \$350,000. If it is successful, Horizons intends to seek reimbursement from Emerging Vision, to the extent permitted by law, for expenses incurred in connection with its proxy solicitation, without the vote of the holders of the Capital Stock.

In addition to the use of the mails, solicitation of proxies may be made by means of personal calls upon, or telephonic, telegraphic or facsimile communications to or with, shareholders or their personal representatives by certain of Horizons' nominees for election as directors, none of whom will be specifically compensated for such services. Proxies will not be solicited via the Internet, such as Internet chat rooms and/or posting on websites. Copies of soliciting materials will be furnished to banks, brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for forwarding to the beneficial owners of shares of Capital Stock for whom they hold shares, and Horizons will reimburse them for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in connection therewith.

Horizons has also retained The Altman Group to assist it in the solicitation of proxies. The Altman Group will solicit proxies on behalf of Horizons from individuals, brokers, bank nominees and other institutional holders in the same manner described above. The Altman Group will receive a fee of \$17,500 for its services to Horizons in connection with the solicitation of the proxies, a fee of \$7,500 upon the mailing of this proxy statement to Emerging Vision's shareholders and an additional fee of \$12,500 if Horizons is successful in electing a majority of Emerging Vision's directors at the Annual Meeting, plus reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. Approximately 25 persons will be employed by The Altman Group to solicit shareholders.

ABSENCE OF APPRAISAL RIGHTS

Under New York law, you do not have appraisal rights in connection with our solicitation of proxies.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SOLICITATION

Under applicable regulations of the SEC, Horizons and each of Horizons' nominees is deemed to be a participant in Horizons' solicitation of proxies. In connection with the participants, Horizons furnishes the following information. Horizons is a New York corporation with a business address at 131 Lancaster Street Albany, New York 12210. The name, business address and principal occupation of each of Horizons' nominees for director is listed under the section entitled "Proposed Directors of Emerging Vision Biographical Information". Information about the present ownership by Horizons and its nominees for director or any of their respective associates of Emerging Vision Capital Stock is set forth under the section entitled "Proposed Directors of Emerging Vision Share Ownership". Information about transactions by each of Horizons and its nominees for director in Emerging Vision's Capital Stock during the past two years and information about related party transactions involving Horizons and its nominees for director can be found in Appendix A to this Proxy Statement. Except as otherwise set forth in this Proxy Statement or in Appendix A hereto, none of Horizons or its nominees for director or any of their respective associates has any arrangement or understanding with any person with respect to future employment or future transactions Emerging Vision.

There are no arrangements between Horizons or any of its nominees for director and any other person, pursuant to which any person is to be selected as such. There is no family relationship between persons nominated to become directors.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following is based solely on information provided in Emerging Vision's proxy statement:

Common Stock:

The following table sets forth certain information, as of June 1, 2004, regarding the beneficial ownership of the Common Stock by: (i) each shareholder known by Emerging Vision to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the outstanding shares of Emerging Vision's Common Stock; (ii) each director of Emerging Vision; (iii) each Named Executive Officer of Emerging Vision (as said term is defined under the caption "Executive Compensation" in Emerging Vision's proxy statement); and (iv) all directors and executive officers of Emerging Vision as a group. The percentages in the "Percent of Class" column are calculated in accordance with the rules of the SEC, under which a person may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of shares if that person has or shares the power to vote or dispose of those shares or has the right to acquire beneficial ownership of those shares within 60 days (for example, through the exercise of an option or warrant). Accordingly, the shares shown in the table as beneficially owned by certain individuals may include shares owned by certain members of their respective families. Because of these rules, more than one person may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the same shares. The inclusion of the shares shown in the table is not necessarily an admission of beneficial ownership of those shares by the person indicated. Unless otherwise indicated, Emerging Vision believes that the beneficial owners of the Common Stock listed below, based on information provided by such owners, have sole investment and voting power with respect to such shares. The address of Benito R. Fernandez (on behalf of Horizons Investors Corp.) is 2830 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11208. The address of Joel L. Gold is c/o Berry Shino Securities, 45 Broadway, New York, New York 10006. The address of Nicholas Shashati is c/o Sterling VisionCare, 9663 Tierra Grande Street, San Diego, California 92126. The address of all other persons listed below is c/o Emerging Vision Inc., 100 Quentin Roosevelt Boulevard, Suite 508, Garden City, New York 11530.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Beneficial Ownership</u>	<u>Percent of Class</u>
Christopher G. Payan (a) (b)	1,262,500 (1)	1.8%
Myles S. Lewis (b)	150,000 (2)	*
Samuel Z. Herskowitz (b)	177,500 (3)	*
Nicholas Shashati (b)	140,000 (4)	*
Alan Cohen (a)	3,400,469 (5)	4.8%
Robert Cohen (a)	3,023,859 (6)	4.3%
Horizons Investors Corp. (a)	23,926,531 (7)	33.9%
Joel L. Gold (a)	221,500 (8)	*
All current directors and executive officers as a group	32,302,359 (9)	44.5%

* less than 1%

(a) Current director. For more information relating to the warrants granted to Alan and Robert Cohen and Horizons, described in footnotes 5, 6, 7 and 9, see Appendix A.

(b) Executive officer

(1) This number includes the right to acquire 50,000 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of presently exercisable, outstanding options.

(2) This number includes the right to acquire 50,000 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of presently exercisable, outstanding options.

(3) This number includes the right to acquire 77,500 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of presently exercisable, outstanding options.

- (4) This number represents the right to acquire 140,000 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of presently exercisable, outstanding options.
- (5) This number includes (i) the right to acquire 750,000 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of presently exercisable, outstanding options, and (ii) 26,700 shares owned by Alan Cohen, as custodian for each of Erica and Nicole Cohen (Alan Cohen's children, as to which Alan Cohen disclaims beneficial ownership), but excludes (i) 8,973,800 shares, in the aggregate, held in trust for Alan Cohen's minor children, Erica, Nicole, Jaclyn and Gabrielle, as beneficiaries, in respect of which Alan Cohen is not a trustee and has no dispositive or investment authority, and as to which he disclaims beneficial ownership and (ii) the right to acquire 5,562,753 (and, in the case of Alan Cohen's children trusts, 8,816,066) shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of outstanding warrants that are not exercisable until April 15, 2006.
- (6) This number includes the right to acquire 750,000 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of presently exercisable, outstanding options, but excludes (i) 8,766,566 shares, in the aggregate, owned by Robert Cohen's adult children, Allyson, Jeffrey and Stefanie, as to which Robert Cohen has no dispositive or investment authority and disclaims beneficial ownership and (ii) the right to acquire 4,293,729 (and, in the case of Robert Cohen's children, 7,871,148) shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of outstanding warrants that are not exercisable until April 15, 2006.
- (7) This number represents shares of Common Stock owned by Horizons principally owned by Mr. Fernandez, and includes the right to acquire 200,000 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of presently exercisable, outstanding options, but excludes the right to acquire 31,067,776 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of outstanding warrants that are not exercisable until April 15, 2006. Horizons is the beneficial owner of all shares held of record by it.
- (8) This number includes 1,500 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Gold's children and the right to acquire 220,000 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of presently exercisable, outstanding options, but excludes an additional 5,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Gold's wife, to which Mr. Gold disclaims beneficial ownership.
- (9) This number includes (i) the right to acquire 2,237,500 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of presently exercisable, outstanding options, and (ii) 26,700 shares owned by Alan Cohen, as custodian for each of Erica and Nicole Cohen (as to which Alan Cohen disclaims beneficial ownership), but excludes the right to acquire 40,924,258 shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of warrants that are not exercisable until April 15, 2006. In accordance with Rule 13d-3(d)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the 2,237,500 shares of Common Stock for which the Company's directors and executive officers, as a group, hold currently exercisable options and warrants, have been added to the total number of issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock solely for the purpose of calculating the percentage of such total number of issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by such directors and executive officers as a group.

Senior Convertible Preferred Stock:

In April 1998, Emerging Vision issued the Preferred Stock, together with warrants (all of which expired in February 2001) to acquire shares of its Common Stock. Each share of Preferred Stock had a liquidation preference of \$100,000, and was originally convertible into Common Stock at a price of \$5.00 per share. In December 1999, the conversion price was reduced to \$0.75 per share for all of the remaining holders of Preferred Stock.

Set forth below is the name, address, stock ownership and voting power of the sole remaining owner of Emerging Vision's Preferred Stock:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Beneficial Ownership</u>	<u>Percent of Class</u>
Rita Folger	0.74 (1)	100%
1257 East 24th Street		
Brooklyn, NY 11210		

- (1) These shares are convertible into an aggregate of 98,519 shares of Common Stock; and the holder thereof is entitled to cast that number of votes at any meeting of shareholders, voting together with the Common Stock.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

To the knowledge of Horizons, there was no person who, at any time during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, who is a participant as contained in this Proxy Statement, who failed to file on a timely basis the reports required by Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the most recent fiscal year, except that Horizons filed certain of its Forms 4 after the required deadlines.

COMPENSATION OF NOMINEES

Benito R. Fernandez, as a director of Emerging Vision received \$1,500 for each board meeting attended in person, \$1,000 for each committee meeting attended in person, and \$500 for each board or committee meeting attended telephonically, and was reimbursed for certain expenses in connection with his attendance at board and committee meetings.

On May 30, 2003, the Compensation Committee of the Emerging Vision Board granted 100,000 stock options to Benito R. Fernandez as a non-employee director of Emerging Vision. The options have an exercise price of \$0.05, a term of 10 years, and are immediately exercisable. None of these options have been exercised.

OTHER MATTERS

We are not aware of any matters to be presented at the Annual Meeting other than those described in this proxy statement.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Reference is made to Emerging Vision's Proxy Statement for certain information concerning, among other things, (i) the actions proposed by Emerging Vision to be taken at the Annual Meeting, (ii) the securities of Emerging Vision, (iii) the beneficial ownership of securities by, and other information concerning, Emerging Vision's management and the principal holders of securities, and (iv) the procedures for submitting proposals for consideration at the Annual Meeting. Horizons has not independently confirmed the disclosures made by Emerging Vision or any other person in Emerging Vision's Proxy Statement.

IMPORTANT

1. Be sure to vote on the BLUE proxy card. We urge you not to sign any proxy card which is sent to you by Emer