

ASTA FUNDING INC  
Form 4  
December 21, 2006

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Piccolo Louis A

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O ASTA FUNDING, INC., 210 SYLVAN AVENUE

(Street)

ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, NJ 07632

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
ASTA FUNDING INC [ASFI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/19/2006

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)         | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|
|   |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount  | (A) or (D)   | Price                             |   |
| Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share | 12/19/2006                           |  | A                              |   | 3,000   | <u>A</u><br>(1)  | \$ 0 3,000                        | D |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Title and Amount of Derivative Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Stock options (right to buy)               | \$ 28.75   | 12/19/2006                           |  | A                              | 3,000   | (2) 12/19/2016   | Common Stock  | 3,000   |

### Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Piccolo Louis A<br>C/O ASTA FUNDING, INC.<br>210 SYLVAN AVENUE<br>ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, NJ 07632 |               | X         |         |       |

### Signatures

/s/ Louis Piccolo                      12/21/2006

\*\*Signature of                      Date  
Reporting Person

### Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) These shares vest in three equal installments. The first installment will vest 90 days after the grant date, the second a year and 90 days after the grant date, and the third two years and 90 days after the grant date.
- (2) These options vest in three equal installments. The first installment will vest 90 days after the grant date, the second a year and 90 days after the grant date, and the third two years and 90 days after the grant date.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.