

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, et al.,	)	
	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 1:02-cv-00864-BAH
	)	
JACOB J. LEW, Secretary of the Treasury,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
	)	

**DEFENDANT’S ELEVENTH STATUS REPORT**

Defendant, by his undersigned counsel, hereby submits this Eleventh Status Report pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Court’s Order and Judgment of October 3, 2008 (Doc. 96), and the Court’s Order of August 15, 2012 (Doc. 121), which require the defendant to file semi-annual status reports describing the steps taken to implement the Order and Judgment.<sup>1</sup>

1. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (“BEP” or “Bureau”) continues to make progress toward implementing the Secretary of the Treasury’s decision to provide meaningful access to United States currency by (1) adding a raised tactile feature to each Federal Reserve note that the BEP may lawfully redesign, (2) continuing the Bureau’s program of adding large, high-contrast numerals and different colors to each denomination that it may lawfully redesign, and (3) implementing a supplemental currency reader distribution program for blind and other visually impaired U.S. citizens and legal residents.

2. Since the filing of Defendant’s Tenth Status Report (Doc. 125), the BEP determined to explore a promising new tactile feature involving a combination of manufacturing techniques, which required production of samples at a commercial facility, re-verification of Office of

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<sup>1</sup> This report is filed one day after the original due date of March 17, 2014, because the clerk’s office was closed and thus “inaccessible” on that date. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(a)(3)(A); *see also Telephone & Data Sys., Inc. v. Amcell F Atlantic City, Inc.*, 20 F.3d 501, 501-02 (D.C. Cir. 1994); *Jones v. United States*, 934 F. Supp. 2d 284, 291-92 (D.D.C. 2013).

Management and Budget approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act, and a minor delay of the acuity study referred to in defendant's prior report to permit inclusion of the new feature. The acuity study, which involved asking blind and other visually impaired persons to provide feedback on specific potential tactile features, has been conducted by the contractor, and BEP received the data from the study and a draft report on February 26, 2014. The Bureau decided to await completion of the acuity study before selecting the application method for the tactile feature; selection of the application method is now expected by approximately March 31, 2014. BEP remains on schedule to select the application material for the tactile feature by January 31, 2015, as stated in Attachment 1 to Defendant's Supplemental Status Report (Doc. 124).

3. As stated in paragraph 3 of Defendant's Tenth Status Report, the BEP hosted a forum entitled "Introduction of Tactile Currency in America" on September 26, 2013, conducted by the National Council on Disability. Representatives of BEP, the Federal Reserve Board, and the United States Secret Service attended and provided information on the design and production challenges related to tactile features, as well as on the distribution of tactile currency, to the disability organizations and advocacy groups in attendance.

4. As foreseen in paragraph 5 of Defendant's Tenth Status Report, the BEP issued its solicitation to procure currency readers for the currency reader distribution program on September 30, 2013. BEP awarded the contract on February 26, 2014, to Orbit Research, LLC, which has been developing and manufacturing products for blind and other visually impaired persons since 1998 and has been selling a currency reader, called the iBill, since 2009. The contract requires the contractor to be ready to begin providing readers for the BEP distribution program no later than ninety days after the contract was awarded. Also, on September 30, 2013, the BEP and the National Library Service of the Library of Congress ("NLS") executed an interagency agreement

for NLS to assist in the distribution of currency readers and in other administrative aspects of the program, and the NLS has hired a full-time program manager to oversee its aspect of the program. BEP expects to launch the currency reader distribution program nationwide in early 2015.

5. BEP continues to provide access to U.S. currency for a segment of the blind and visually impaired population through currency-reading apps for mobile devices. EyeNote 2.0 for the Apple mobile operating system, which was under testing at the time of Defendant's Tenth Status Report, was released in December 2013. This version has a "continuous scanning" feature; the app scans the banknote automatically upon starting, such that the user no longer needs to hold the device in a fixed position or tap the screen to capture an image of the note. The original EyeNote app and EyeNote 2.0 have been downloaded approximately 15,000 times.

Dated: March 18, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

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