

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

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, et al.,)
)
 Plaintiffs,)
)
 v.)
)
 JACOB J. LEW, Secretary of the Treasury,)
)
 Defendant.)

Case No. 1:02-cv-00864-BAH

DEFENDANT’S TWELFTH STATUS REPORT

Defendant, by his undersigned counsel, hereby submits this Twelfth 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.

1. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (“BEP” or “Bureau”) continues to make progress toward implementing the Secretary of the Treasury’s three-pronged approach to providing 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. As described below, the BEP is also taking advantage of technology that has emerged since the three-pronged approach was formulated.

2. The BEP continues to work diligently to develop an appropriate tactile feature for the currency. Based partly on the acuity study described in Defendant’s Eleventh Status Report (Doc. 126), the Bureau has determined not to pursue one of the four technologies it has recently

been studying, but it is still pursuing the promising hybrid technique referred to in the Eleventh Report.

3. Recent events have affected some of the interim benchmark dates in the development of a tactile feature, although those events have not affected the target date for the ultimate production of redesigned currency with a tactile feature, as stated in Defendant's Supplemental Status Report of July 3, 2013 (Doc. 124.) As noted in prior filings, final recommendations regarding currency redesign are made by the Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence Committee and its working-level committee, the Interagency Currency Design Technical Group ("ICD"), which are made up of representatives from BEP, the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, the Currency Technology Office of the Federal Reserve System, and the Secret Service. In March 2014, a working group composed partly of BEP personnel recommended, to a subcommittee of the ICD, that the development of a tactile feature focus on one particular technology among the four technologies that BEP had been studying. Although the ICD subcommittee approved discarding one technology, it declined to approve narrowing the field to the single recommended technology. The subcommittee directed the Bureau to revise the technical requirements for a tactile feature and to develop additional data on the remaining three technologies, including conducting additional testing. Based on these developments, BEP's current schedule is to select the technology for the tactile feature (including both the application method and related application material) by March 2015.

4. Several events and developments have occurred in the currency reader distribution program since the filing of Defendant's Eleventh Status Report (Doc. 126). Pursuant to the contract described in paragraph 4 of that report, the Bureau has placed an initial order of 30,000

currency readers, and Orbit Research, LLC, has begun manufacturing the readers. Readers will be shipped with instructions in large print, in braille, and on CD-ROM.

5. BEP publicly announced plans for the currency reader distribution program on July 3, 2014 (http://www.moneyfactory.gov/images/Press_Release_US_Currency_Reader_Program.pdf). The Bureau's Web site was updated to include a video on the basic functions of the currency reader (<http://www.moneyfactory.gov/ibillytred.html>), along with detailed specifications and operating instructions for the reader (http://www.moneyfactory.gov/images/iBill_User_Manual_short_version.pdf). BEP established a toll-free telephone number and call center office to handle customer inquiries regarding the program, and staff began taking calls on July 2, 2014. Additional contracted call center staff began working at the BEP on September 2, 2014.

6. In July and August 2014, BEP conducted pre-pilot currency reader distribution events at the annual conventions of the American Council of the Blind, the National Federation of the Blind, and the Blinded Veterans Association. BEP personnel made presentations regarding the currency reader program in addition to distributing readers. Similar events were conducted at meetings hosted by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, and by Blind Industries and Services of Maryland. BEP distributed more than 1,800 currency readers at those events.

7. On September 2, 2014, the BEP, in partnership with the Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped ("NLS"), launched a pilot program under which NLS patrons can pre-order a currency reader (<http://www.bep.gov/uscurrencyreaderpgm.html>). This pilot program will allow the BEP to test its ordering and distribution processes and to gauge demand for currency readers.

8. The full national rollout of the currency reader distribution program will occur January 2, 2015, at which time BEP will begin accepting applications. The BEP has developed communications materials, in large print and braille formats, for use in outreach efforts for the currency reader program. The materials included frequently asked questions, information cards with key program milestones and contact information, brochures featuring the currency reader device, and information cards regarding the EyeNote and IDEAL mobile device apps.

9. There has also been continued progress regarding the mobile device applications described in earlier filings, which allow smartphones and similar devices to function as currency readers. The original EyeNote app and EyeNote 2.0 for Apple devices, which were developed by BEP, have been downloaded approximately 19,000 times. The IDEAL Currency Identifier app for the Android operating system, described in Defendant's Ninth Status Report (Doc. 123), has been downloaded approximately 3,700 times. Version 2.0 of the IDEAL Currency Identifier app was released on September 5, 2014. Both EyeNote 2.0 and IDEAL Currency Identifier 2.0 recognize the redesigned \$100 note released in 2013, as well as all other U.S. currency in circulation.

Dated: September 16, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

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