

**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 THIRTEENTH STATUS REPORT

Defendant, by his undersigned counsel, hereby submits this Thirteenth 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 in pursuing 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 currency reader distribution program for blind and other visually impaired U.S. citizens and legal residents. The BEP is also taking advantage of technology that has developed since the Secretary approved this three-pronged approach.

2. The BEP continues to work diligently to explore the technology that would be needed to develop an appropriate tactile feature. As stated in Defendant’s Supplemental Status Report of February 5, 2015 (Doc. 136), the Bureau expects to eliminate one of the three remaining potential

technologies for the tactile feature in April 2015, and to select the technology to be used for the feature in December 2015.

3. The additional testing undertaken by direction of the Interagency Currency Design Technical Group (“ICD”), referred to in Defendant’s Twelfth Status Report (Doc. 127), includes both durability testing and acuity testing. The BEP conducted additional durability testing – which encompassed all three tactile feature technologies – in February 2015.

4. The additional acuity testing, which assesses how well blind persons can detect a given tactile feature under various conditions, will be conducted after BEP eliminates one of the three technologies. In the acuity testing, a total of approximately fifty blind persons, in small group sessions, will evaluate samples of the two remaining technologies on currency paper that has undergone simulated aging based on the revised technical requirements referred to in Defendant’s Twelfth Status Report. After completion of this testing, the Bureau, the ICD, and the Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence Committee will complete their analysis of the results of both the durability testing and the acuity testing.

5. As anticipated in Defendant’s Twelfth Status Report (Doc. 127), the full national rollout of the currency reader distribution program occurred on January 2, 2015. Since that time, the program has received more than 21,000 applications for currency readers, and has distributed more than 17,300 readers. To augment the 30,000 currency readers in BEP’s initial order (all of which the manufacturer delivered), the Bureau has ordered an additional 50,000 readers, with phased delivery scheduled through June 2015. The BEP call center described in Defendant’s Twelfth Status Report has handled more than 2,800 calls, providing information about the program, assisting with questions about operating the devices, and directing customer service inquires to the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of

Congress, which assists in the distribution of readers and other administrative aspects of the program. The BEP has received strongly positive feedback regarding the operation of the readers.

6. The BEP, the Department of the Treasury, and the National Library Service have continued efforts to publicize the currency reader distribution program. In January and February 2015, the Acting Director / Deputy Director of BEP and the Treasurer of the United States were interviewed a total of three times on television and radio news programs regarding the currency reader program, and the Treasurer provided a guest blog post on disability.gov (operated by the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy). In November 2014 and in January through March 2015, BEP personnel made presentations regarding the program at four conferences sponsored by interested organizations, including the Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America (in addition to the conventions and meetings described in Defendant's Twelfth Status Report). The National Library Service has published several articles and alerts regarding the currency reader program for participating libraries; several state and local libraries have had articles published in the news media; and a number of libraries have undertaken outreach to educate patrons about the program.

7. Downloads of the mobile device applications, which allow smartphones and similar devices to function as currency readers, have continued to increase. The EyeNote app for Apple devices, which BEP developed, has been downloaded more than 21,600 times. The IDEAL Currency Identifier app for the Android operating system has been downloaded more than 5,000 times.

Dated: March 16, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

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