

**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
)	
JANET YELLEN,)	
Secretary of the Treasury,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	

DEFENDANT’S STATUS REPORT

Defendant, by her undersigned counsel, hereby submits this 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 providing meaningful access to United States currency, to include exploring the options contained in the three-pronged approach of (1) adding a raised tactile feature (“RTF”) to each Federal Reserve note that the BEP may lawfully redesign, (2) distributing electronic currency readers for blind and other visually impaired U.S. citizens and legal residents, and (3) continuing the Bureau’s program of adding large, high-contrast numerals and different colors to each denomination that it may lawfully redesign.

2. In the March 2020 status report, the BEP reported the development of a method for collecting height measurements of the RTF using a new instrument. This method has since been incorporated into a Standard Operating Procedure. The RTF team is working with the team developing the next \$10 note, referred to as the Catalyst \$10 note, to incorporate the RTF on the Catalyst \$10 note. In November 2020, the BEP included the RTF into a test note for this

denomination as part of a combinatorial activity including potential design and security feature elements. Lessons learned from this activity were documented and are being considered for the Catalyst \$10 note Feasibility Trial scheduled to occur in early 2022.

3. BEP continues to provide meaningful access to the currency for many blind and visually impaired persons through a currency reader distribution program operated in conjunction with the National Library Service of the Library of Congress. As of September 1, 2021, the program has distributed approximately 85,661 iBill currency readers. BEP has established a total of 34 signed Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with various entities to assist in distributing currency readers to our constituents. MOA participants have distributed a total of 670 iBill currency readers to their clients in FY 2021, despite the limitations of the COVID-19 epidemic. BEP continues to receive positive feedback on the program. Since the last status report, BEP has signed six Memoranda of Agreement, including agreements with the following: the Wisconsin Department of Human Service for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Northern Illinois University (NIU), the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Lighthouse Guild NYC, the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired South Carolina, and the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Region. BEP has agreements with five of the thirteen Blind Rehabilitation Services (BRS) and continues to pursue agreements with the remaining eight centers. Additionally, BEP has an MOA with one of six regions of the Texas Workforce Commission within the state of Texas and is working to incorporate the remaining five regions. Teachers at the Texas Workforce Commission collectively see more than 1000 clients a year. MOA participant, Northern Illinois University (NIU) published an article in May's issue of *NIU Today*, of their participation with distributing iBill currency readers.

4. BEP also continues to provide meaningful access for a large segment of the blind

community through mobile device applications, which allow smartphones and similar devices to function as currency readers. The number of downloads of these applications continues to increase. The EyeNote app for Apple devices, which BEP developed, has been downloaded approximately 80,751 times. The IDEAL Currency Identifier app for the Android operating system has been downloaded approximately 47,600 times. BEP has awarded a new contract to upgrade the EyeNote App to denominate currency and the new App will work on both the Apple iOS and Android platforms. The previous Android App offered by BEP is unable to be upgraded. Delivery is expected on these services in January 2022.

5. BEP continues to conduct extensive public outreach in connection with its meaningful access program, primarily to promote the currency readers. To date, BEP has participated in 114 Conferences for the Meaningful Access Program. Since the last status report, BEP has participated in virtual conferences and/or presentations with: the Texas Workforce Commission, the 2021 National Federation of the Blind National Convention, the American Council of the Blind 60th Annual Conference and Convention, and the Blinded Veterans Association 76th National Convention. Thousands of attendees participated in these conferences and/or viewed these presentations.

DATED: September 15, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN BOYNTON
Acting Assistant Attorney General

CARLOTTA P. WELLS
Assistant Director

s/ Justin M. Sandberg
JUSTIN M. SANDBERG (Ill. Bar. No.

6278377)
Senior Trial Counsel
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division
Federal Programs Branch
1100 L Street NW, Room 11004
Washington, DC 20005
Tel.: (202) 514-5838
Fax: (202) 616-8460
Email: justin.sandberg@usdoj.gov
Counsel for Defendant