

**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
	)	
STEVEN T. MNUCHIN, Secretary of the	)	
Treasury,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
	)	

**DEFENDANT’S TWENTY-THIRD STATUS REPORT**

Defendant, by his undersigned counsel, hereby submits this Twenty-Third 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, including by 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. BEP continues to pursue the creation of a durable, usable, and manufacturable tactile Feature that can function in commercial and governmental counting and inspection machines, as well as in ATMs and vending machines. The Bureau’s efforts in that regard are described in previous status reports and in Defendant’s Response to Order of January 9, 2019, dated February 8, 2019, and its attachments (Dkt. No. 179). Those filings are incorporated herein by reference.

3. As reported in September 2019, BEP is running a 400,000 sheet Manufacturability Test to evaluate printed RTFs created using Intaglio and Coated Embossing application methods. The objective of a Manufacturability Test is to determine the viability of incorporating a technology into a banknote using BEP equipment in production size quantities. Since the September 2019 status report, BEP has completed all production steps (i.e., the printing of the test sheets) and is focusing on data collection and analysis. This will include analysis of data collected from inspection machines and height measurements of the RTF and will require method development for both. Height measurements will be collected using a new instrument, which is expected to be delivered by mid-March 2020.

5. After testing is completed, and assuming that an effective, manufacturable RTF application method is identified, BEP will make a selection recommendation for the RTF application method to the Interagency Currency Committee (ICC) and to the Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence (ACD) Steering Committee. If the selection recommendation is approved by the committees, the ACD Committee will recommend an application method to the Secretary of the Treasury, who will select the RTF application method. BEP anticipates that the Secretary will select an application method (again, assuming an effective, manufacturable RTF application method is identified) in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2020 (i.e., sometime from July – September of 2020). BEP and the Department of Treasury continue to expect to have the first denomination of the redesigned banknotes ready for production no later than 2026. Defendant's Twentieth Status Report (Dkt. No. 166).

6. BEP continues to provide meaningful access to the currency for a large proportion of blind persons through a currency reader distribution program operated in conjunction with the National Library Service of the Library of Congress. As of March 10, 2020, the program has distributed approximately 78,411 readers. BEP has signed a total of 15 Memoranda of

Agreement with various entities to assist in distributing currency readers to their constituents. Since the beginning of fiscal year 2020, BEP has signed three such agreements, one each with VA-Long Beach Healthcare System, VA-Connecticut Healthcare System, and Lions Low Vision Club.

7. 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 69,737 times. The IDEAL Currency Identifier app for the Android operating system has been downloaded approximately 30,405 times. The Agency has also handled 13,993 customer-service calls.

8. BEP continues to conduct extensive public outreach in connection with its meaningful access program, primarily to promote the currency readers. Since the beginning of fiscal year 2020, BEP has participated in seven conferences: National Federation of the Blind National Harbor 9th County Resource Day, National Industries for the Blind Conference and Expo, National Federation of the Blind Maryland and Virginia State Chapter Conventions, National Federation of the Blind Women's Empowerment, National Aging and Law Conference (NALC) and Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE). These conferences had a combined attendance of around 22,000 people. BEP has also held two demonstrations of the currency reader in its visitor center.

DATED: March 16, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

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*s/ Justin M. Sandberg*

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