

**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 FOURTEENTH STATUS REPORT

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

2. The BEP continues to analyze the relevant technology and narrow the field of potential application methods for the tactile feature. As anticipated in Defendant’s Thirteenth Status Report (Doc. 137), BEP has conducted additional acuity testing, which assesses how well blind and other visually impaired persons can detect a given tactile feature under various conditions. Focus groups of such persons were used to test aged and durability-tested notes produced using the

three then-remaining application methods. The BEP has also conducted high-speed cash machine testing on the three application methods. As a result of the testing described above and in earlier status reports, the Bureau has now eliminated one of the three remaining application methods, and will continue to test the other two methods, which are Intaglio and Coated-Embossed.

3. The BEP intends to print six tactile feature samples incorporating each of the two remaining application methods, and to subject those samples to review by a focus group in November 2015. Based on that review, the Bureau will eliminate all but one or two of the samples of each application method. (Also, BEP anticipates sending the top samples, in March 2016, to participants in its Banknote Equipment Manufacturers program for their testing. Banknote Equipment Manufacturers produce a variety of devices that process U.S. currency.)

4. The BEP has determined to conduct an additional round of large-group acuity testing of the Intaglio and Coated-Embossed tactile features after the testing described above. This testing will conclude by April 2016, and the Bureau expects to select the final application method for the tactile feature shortly thereafter. BEP's target date for producing currency with a tactile feature remains the year 2020, as stated in prior filings.

5. The currency reader distribution program operated by BEP and the National Library Service remains fully operational, and has recently been expanded. The National Library Service has hired a second full-time employee to assist with data entry since the filing of Defendant's Thirteenth Status Report, and the distribution process has been enhanced. To date, the program has distributed more than 31,000 currency readers, including those distributed by BEP at six conferences and conventions since defendant's last report. The BEP call center has handled approximately 5,800 inquiries regarding the distribution program and the reader.

6. At the conventions of the American Council of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind in July 2015, the BEP and National Library Service conducted a survey of blind and

other visually impaired persons who had received a currency reader through the program.

Ninety-one percent of the respondents said they had found the reader to be a successful means of denominating currency.

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 24,474 times. The IDEAL Currency Identifier app for the Android operating system has been downloaded more than 6,000 times.

Dated: September 16, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

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