

**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. The RTF team continues to integrate the RTF on the next \$10 note, referred to as the Catalyst \$10 note. The second Feasibility Trial for the Catalyst \$10 note, which included the RTF, was completed in February 2023. Samples were evaluated using established BEP quality methods. Additionally, heights were measured using a new instrument with a standard operating procedure that is being refined. The results of the second Feasibility Trial are being

used to optimize RTF engravings for subsequent Catalyst \$10 note testing.

3. As of March 3, 2023, the program has distributed approximately 96,270 iBill® electronic currency readers, and its customer service call center has handled 14,468 calls.

4. To assist in distributing those currency readers, BEP has established a total of 64 signed Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) with various entities in distributing currency readers to our constituents. Since the beginning of FY 2023, BEP has signed an additional 7 MOAs with the following: Blind Industries Services of Maryland; Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library; Envisions Dallas; Department of Education, New York City; Perkins Talking Book Library; State Library of Kansas, Talking Books Service; and Alabama Instructional Resource Center for the Blind. BEP has 33 out of 50 states participating in the third-party MOAs, with an overall distribution of more than 1,708 iBill currency readers in FY 2022. In November 2022, National Library Service (NLS) provided continuous training on the U.S. Currency Reader Program to network libraries throughout the United States with a total of 40 participants. The training resulted in 4 of the third-party MOA's: Perkins Talking Book Library, Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library, State Library of Kansas Talking Book Library, and Alabama Instructional Resource Center for the Blind, with interest from additional libraries.

5. BEP currently has 8 MOA agreements and outreach effort continue with inpatient and outpatient VA Blind Rehabilitation Centers.

6. 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. As of March 3, 2023, there have been a total of 166,723 mobile application downloads. The EyeNote® application for Apple devices, which BEP developed, has been downloaded approximately 113,199 times. The IDEAL Currency Identifier application

for the Android operating system has been downloaded approximately 53,524 times. The upgrade for the EyeNote application for Apple iOS and new Android™ application is complete and will be available through Apple AppStoreSM and Google Play store when final clearance is received from the app stores.

7. Additional highlights include Michigan Braille and the Talking Book Library participated in interviews with two local news stations, WILX 10 and Second Wave Media of Southwest Michigan, regarding the availability and distribution of iBill® currency readers. In collaboration with NLS, a new electronic currency reader application for certifiers is currently in the testing and refinement phase, with an anticipated release in late Spring 2023. The electronic application process will eliminate the need for submitting paper applications through the mail, assist with application distribution tracking and provide cost savings.

Dated: March 15, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

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