

**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 work to incorporate the RTF on the next \$10 note, referred to as the Catalyst \$10 note. The Feasibility Trial for the Catalyst \$10 note, which included the RTF, was completed in June 2022. Samples were then 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 informed inputs for a second

Feasibility Trial for the Catalyst \$10, scheduled for Quarter 1 of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. The test includes the RTF and provides an opportunity to further optimize the RTF engravings.

Samples produced during the second Feasibility Trial will be evaluated similarly to the samples from the first Feasibility Trial.

3. As of September 6, 2022, the program has distributed approximately 92,733 iBill electronic currency readers, and its customer service call center has handled 14,210 calls from currency-reader users or potential users. Since the beginning of FY 22, BEP has distributed 1,500 currency readers through third-party Memoranda of Agreement (“MOAs”).

4. To assist in distributing those currency readers, BEP has established a total of 56 signed MOAs with various entities. Since the beginning of FY 2022 (on October 1, 2021), BEP has signed an additional twenty-three MOAs with the following: the Lubbock, Texas Workforce Commission, Region 1; the Austin, Texas Workforce Commission, Region 2; the Austin, Texas Workforce Commission, Region 3; the Lufkin, Texas Workforce Commission, Region 4; the Houston, Texas Workforce Commission, Region 5; Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; Department of Veterans Affairs Sioux Falls, South Dakota Healthcare Center; the Staunton Public Library; Talking Book Center and Eye Learn; Braille Institute; Bosma Enterprise; Colorado Center for the Blind; Chicago Public Library and Talking Book Center; Future Choices Inc.; Worcester Talking Book Library; Washington Talking Book & Braille Library; Colorado Talking Book Library; Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services; Arlington Heights Memorial Library; Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; The Sight Center of Northwest; and Department of Veterans Affairs, Broward Virginia Outpatient Center. BEP also implemented an MOA with two additional Veterans Affairs Healthcare Centers, for a total of eight agreements with Healthcare Centers.

5. At the same time, outreach efforts continue with multiple inpatient and outpatient VA Blind Rehabilitation Centers for MOA agreements. In 2022, BEP implemented a pilot program to integrate NLS network libraries into the MOA program. The success of the pilot program has now onboarded a total of seven libraries throughout the U.S. to distribute the iBill currency readers to their patrons.

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 September 6, 2022, there have been a total of 143,554 mobile application downloads. The EyeNote application for Apple devices, which BEP developed, has been downloaded approximately 90,030 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 Android is in its final testing phase, with an anticipated release in Fall 2022.

7. To date, BEP has participated in 117 Conferences for the Meaningful Access Program, with a combined total in attendance of 34,500 patrons. Since the beginning of FY 2022, BEP has participated in two conferences: American Council of the Blind (virtual) and 77th Blinded Veterans Associations Convention (in-person). The Meaningful Access program also hosted a training webinar in mid-June 2022 for the Older Individuals who are Blind Technical Center.

DATED: September 16, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

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