

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, et al., )  
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 Plaintiffs, )  
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 v. )  
 )  
 TIMOTHY F. GEITHNER, Secretary of the )  
 Treasury, )  
 )  
 Defendant. )

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Case No. 1:02-cv-00864-BAH

**DEFENDANT'S EIGHTH STATUS REPORT**

Defendant, by his undersigned counsel, hereby submits the eighth 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”) is making progress toward implementing the Secretary’s decision to provide meaningful access to United States currency in accordance with this Court’s judgment by (1) adding a raised tactile feature to each Federal Reserve note that the BEP may lawfully redesign, (2) continuing BEP’s program of adding large, high-contrast numerals and different colors to each denomination that it may lawfully redesign, and (3) implementing a supplemental currency reader distribution program for blind and other visually impaired U.S. citizens and legal residents.

2. The BEP is continuing its research to develop a durable and usable tactile feature. Through that research, as stated in the supplemental declaration of BEP Director Larry R. Felix filed on July 16, 2012, the agency had, at that time, eliminated several types of tactile features and narrowed down the possible features to four potential classes encompassing features using special inks and other materials applied to the surface of the substrate. BEP has been testing these

features in its in-house pilot testing area and with outside vendors. Since the filing of Mr. Felix's declaration, BEP has been able to eliminate another potential application methodology, which did not meet the agency's requirements.

3. As indicated earlier in this litigation, the first step in a redesign of the currency is to determine the order in which the denominations will be redesigned. At the end of July 2012, the BEP formally presented its recommendations on that decision to the Interagency Currency Design Technical Group ("ICD"). The ICD requested additional clarification and information regarding certain aspects of the recommendation, and the BEP should be able to respond to those questions by the end of September 2012.

4. BEP continues to explore the most promising options for implementing the currency reader program. Meetings with other federal agencies have indicated that a number of agencies may be interested in partnering with the BEP and the Federal Reserve Board to distribute currency readers. BEP will continue these discussions in October 2012. BEP is also studying other currency reader scenarios using the assistance of other federal agencies. Additionally, the BEP has issued a Request for Information ("RFI") to obtain feedback from potential contract support providers about the capabilities and experience they could offer to support a currency reader distribution program. The RFI, which asks respondents to submit a white paper, is available on the "Federal Business Opportunities" website at [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov) (reference # BEP-RFI-12-ACCESSSUPPORT). It is also referenced on the BEP web site at <http://www.moneyfactory.gov/uscurrency/meaningfulaccess.html>. (BEP issued another RFI earlier for information regarding currency readers; that RFI, which has now closed, is also available at [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov) (reference # BEP-RFI-12-0201).)

5. As reported in prior status reports, the BEP has developed “EyeNote,” a free application for the Apple mobile operating system that allows users to scan a bank note and hear the note’s value. Since the release of EyeNote in April 2011, it has been downloaded more than 8,000 times. Moreover, as mentioned in the seventh status report, BEP has explored the possibility of creating a similar application for the Android platform. Since that time, the BEP has worked with the Department of Education toward the development of an Android app, and that Department has provided a grant to a developer who is writing such an app. The BEP understands that the app is close to release.

Dated: September 17, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

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