



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Regional business leaders creating a better tomorrow...today.

GBC In The News: December 2016 - January 2017

Media highlights of the GBC in December 2016 and January 2017.

The Greater Baltimore Committee frequently receives requests from local and national media outlets to provide insight, comment or perspective on a pressing topic or issue. Reporters, editors and producers solicit our input because the GBC provides the unique private sector angle and enjoys a reputation for providing informed and well thought out perspectives on important issues facing our state, region, and city.

Additionally, as part of the effort to be an influential voice in the region, I also publish regular commentaries in *The Daily Record* and other media outlets.

To ensure that you and other members are kept informed of the GBC's presence in the media, we are pleased to provide you with this edition of GBC in the News.

As always, I welcome your feedback and questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Fry", written in a cursive style.

Donald C. Fry
President & CEO

DECEMBER 2016

Don Fry Commentaries

December 27 The MARC STEINER Show: Maryland Politics

Don Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, was a guest on The MARC STEINER Show and discussed Maryland politics. [Listen to the podcast.](#)

December 15 The Daily Record: Coalition for a Second Chance report

"Virtually every expert and study on reducing recidivism agrees that a linchpin for returning citizens to break this cycle is obtaining stable employment as quickly as possible," notes a new report by the Greater Baltimore Committee, "Opening Doors to a Second Chance: Removing barriers and cultivating job opportunities for returning citizens and job seekers with a criminal background." [Read the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

December 29 The Baltimore Sun: Marylander of the Year

"He always pushes to make Baltimore the best it can be and tries to push people to see what Baltimore's potential is," said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, on whose board Mr. Plank serves as Vice Chair. "When someone of his stature in the business world is putting this kind of commitment into Baltimore, it makes people take another look." [Read the article.](#)

December 27 The Daily Record: Tax Incentives

"I think, obviously, the availability of tax credits, or public financing, for significant economic growth projects are an important tool for a jurisdiction in its efforts to attract and grow businesses, and the economy," said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. "It's one of these situations where many other jurisdictions also have these tools as part of their strategy. So it's important that we do have the availability, and they need to be carefully considered when you're looking at any and all potential projects." [Read the article.](#)

December 16 The Baltimore Sun: BaltimoreLink

Don Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, a group of business and civic leaders, said business executives across the city are keeping a close watch on the BaltimoreLink plans. "How do you connect the worker community to employment hubs, and do it in an efficient manner?" Fry said. "That's what we look for more than anything else." [Read the article.](#)

December 8 Baltimore Business Journal: Coalition for a Second Chance report

The Greater Baltimore Committee released a report Thursday recommending businesses and government be more open to hiring ex-offenders and provide more resources for those exiting jail. "I think this report really underscores how increasing opportunities for returning citizens is going to be a win for these citizens, a win for employers and really a win for the overall economic condition of our region," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

December 8 The Baltimore Sun: Coalition for a Second Chance report

With the goal of removing barriers to jobs for ex-offenders, a Baltimore business group is proposing programs to build entrepreneurial skills, incentives for employers to hire those with criminal records and the creation of a state office to ease re-entry into society after incarceration. Those are among the wide-ranging recommendations for businesses, nonprofits and government agencies included in report released Thursday by the Greater Baltimore Committee. [Read the article.](#)

December 8 The Daily Record: Coalition for a Second Chance report

Baltimore-area business, civic and nonprofit leaders, in a new report, are advocating for the removal of barriers to jobseekers with criminal records, something second-chance advocates say is part of a surprising shift in attitudes in recent years. The Coalition for a Second Chance's findings, released Thursday, are intended to serve as a blueprint of strategies for businesses and government organizations to address barriers to employment for citizens reentering society after incarceration or individuals with criminal records. [Read the article.](#)

December 6 The Daily Record: Inauguration of Mayor Catherine E. Pugh

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, agreed there is a sense of optimism among businesses. He stressed that one of Mayor Pugh's top priorities should be to resolve the city's high-crime problem. "I think that public safety is an area that there is some concern about because obviously it has a tragic effect on people who are impacted by violence, or violent crimes, but also that carries over to businesses and the employees at companies who are directly or indirectly impacted," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

GBC Events**December 14 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast with Kevin Davis and Marilyn Mosby**

Baltimore just surpassed the 300 murder mark and the best way businesses can help, Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby says, is by donating money. Speaking to members of Baltimore's business community at a breakfast hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee Wednesday, Mosby said she finds the number of murders "very disturbing," especially because much of the crime in Baltimore is retaliatory. Mosby appeared alongside Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis to answer questions about the efforts being taken to improve public safety in Baltimore. [Read the article.](#)

December 14 The Baltimore Sun: Newsmaker Breakfast with Kevin Davis and Marilyn Mosby

The morning after Baltimore crossed 300 homicide victims for the second consecutive year, the city's top prosecutor and police commissioner met with a group of business leaders to discuss the continued bloodshed and their efforts to curb the spike. "It's extremely disturbing, especially when we see the level of retaliatory violence that's taking place in our city," Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn J. Mosby told members of the Greater Baltimore Committee. [Read the article.](#)

December 14 The Daily Record: Newsmaker Breakfast with Kevin Davis and Marilyn Mosby

The morning after Baltimore City recorded its 300th homicide in 2016, State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby and Police Commissioner Kevin Davis met with members of the business community to discuss criminal justice issues and the role of the private sector. "We're certainly not where we need to be as a city," Davis said at a Greater Baltimore Committee event Wednesday. "Those numbers are human beings. Those numbers are families that have been torn apart." [Read the article.](#)

December 5 The Daily Record: Mayor's Business Recognition Awards

Eleven Baltimore businesses were recognized for activities or projects that have significantly benefited the Baltimore community and are outside of the business's regular mission at the 42nd Annual Mayor's Business Recognition Awards Thursday. [Read the article.](#)

December 5 Baltimore Business Journal: Mayor's Business Recognition Awards

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake told the business leaders in the audience at the 42nd Annual Mayor's Business Recognition Awards to get involved in the community. "Find a way to give back like these companies here today," she said. [Read the article.](#)

JANUARY 2017

Don Fry Commentaries

January 20 The Daily Record: The session's top business priorities

The Maryland General Assembly session opened January 11 and, with the governor's recent submission of the proposed 2018 fiscal year budget, legislative rhetoric and activity is moving into high gear. With battle lines forming, it's worth taking a look at the GBC's 2017 priorities. [Read the commentary.](#)

January 13 MPT's State Circle: Paid Sick Leave

[Watch](#) GBC President and CEO Don Fry weigh in on paid sick leave. (See minute mark 5:22).

January 4 Baltimore Business Journal: The Year Ahead

Looking into the proverbial crystal ball is always risky business especially in the changing world of politics, but it's safe to say that 2017 appears to be shaping up as a busy and interesting year on a number of business and economic fronts for Greater Baltimore and Maryland. [Read the commentary.](#)

GBC Events

January 23 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC Legislative Forum

Citing a need to help keep Maryland businesses competitive regionally and nationally, Delegate Dereck E. Davis said he plans to file a bill by the end of this week that would pre-empt local governments from passing minimum wage bills by making wages and benefits the domain of the state. Delegate Davis made the announcement at a legislative forum hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee on Monday. "We support legislation that would pre-empt local governments from making changes on wage and hourly types of situations," said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the GBC. "We think those types of issues are certainly better handled at the state level." [Read the article.](#)

January 23 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC Legislative Forum

Keiffer Mitchell, a Senior Advisor to Governor Hogan, said Monday a mandatory paid leave bill is likely to pass. He told business leaders at the Greater Baltimore Committee's legislative forum that Hogan wanted to make sure there was a proposal that is "less onerous on businesses."

Delegate Dereck Davis and Delegate Nicholas Kipke, who also spoke at the forum, agreed a bill will likely pass during this year's legislative session. They expressed a hope that lawmakers from both sides of the aisle will reach a compromise. [Read the article.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

January 23 The Daily Record: Hiring Eligibility

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the GBC, said Senate Bill 55, which would prevent employers in certain industries from being held liable based on evidence of past criminal conduct if the employee has completed probation, falls in line with the organization's goal to make it less burdensome for businesses to hire returning citizens. When employers were interviewed about their feelings on hiring people with criminal records, liability was a common question, according to Fry. "It's a bill we think highlights an issue that the business community has," he said. The GBC supports the bill as-is but also would like to see the types of employers expanded, added Fry, who called the legislation "a great first step." [Read the article.](#)

January 19 The Baltimore Sun: Police Reforms

Don Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said the group and its business network "stand ready to work with the mayor and be a problem solver." He said it is too early to say specifically what contributions would be possible. "We will look at the situation and see what the needs are," Fry said. "We want to be part of the solution to the extent we can." [Read the article.](#)

January 10 Baltimore Business Journal: Maryland General Assembly

Because of the state's budget constraints, Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald C. Fry doesn't believe legislators will be quick to approve any new projects or tax credit programs. Instead, he said the GBC will be watching to ensure existing incentives remain intact.

Fry said he will also be following how spending cuts affect education funding because of the importance of the kindergarten through 12th grade pipeline for businesses. [Read the article.](#)

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