



## GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

# GBC In The News: April - May 2017

*Media highlights of the GBC in April and May 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 *Baltimore Business Journal*, *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

## APRIL 2017

### Don Fry Commentaries

#### **April 27 The Daily Record: Public Safety**

The Baltimore Police Department needs every dollar and then some. In the GBC's 2015 call to action commentary we stated that city officials must "focus on the right things at the right time." For Baltimore, the right thing remains getting public safety in order and making sure the police have every advantage to make that happen. The time, of course, is now. [Read the commentary.](#)

### GBC Events

#### **April 19 The Daily Record: Newsmaker Breakfast with Jack Young**

Baltimore City Council President Bernard C. "Jack" Young supports the city's consent decree with the U.S. Department of Justice to reform the police department. But he's also pinning some of the blame for a recent spike in city crime on the agreement. Young made his comments during the Greater Baltimore Committee's Newsmaker Breakfast on Wednesday morning in response to a question from former Mayor Kurt Schmoke about the city's struggle with shootings and murders. [Read the article.](#)

#### **April 19 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast with Jack Young**

Speaking at a Greater Baltimore Committee meeting Wednesday, City Council President Bernard C. "Jack" Young said he wants to start targeting vacant properties in some of the city's neighborhoods away from the waterfront to turn them into mixed-income housing. [Read the article.](#)

## **Baltimore City Hall**

#### **April 1 Reason.com: Minimum Wage**

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, a regional organization including business and civic leaders, said in a statement that the \$15 minimum wage would have "threatened jobs, made Baltimore an island surrounded by counties with lower business costs, and hit the city budget with millions of dollars in higher labor costs it simply cannot afford." Fry applauded Pugh for "demonstrating prudent fiscal management." [Read the article.](#)

## **Additional Media Coverage**

#### **April 13 The Daily Record: Commercial Real Estate**

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said he was happy with moves the state made regarding tax credits for businesses. He cited tax credits for manufacturing, research and development and making it easier for early-stage companies to qualify for bioscience tax credits as wins for the state's business environment. "When you look at the overall budget, not a significant part of the budget goes to tax incentives. It's important that we continue to have an increasing amount over time so that we're competitive with other states," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

## **MAY 2017**

## **Don Fry Commentaries**

#### **May 18 The Daily Record: Courage in Public Service**

"Many people have offered over the past few days unsolicited advice about what I should do to promote my personal reputation," said United States Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein at the GBC's Annual Meeting on May 15. "But I took an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. There is nothing in that oath about my reputation. And so if you ask me what one of the main problems with Washington, D.C., is today, it's that so many people are busy running around trying to protect their reputation, rather than protecting the republic - which is what they are supposed to be doing." And so there you had it. This was a man with a backbone and a moral compass who had found himself at a time and place with both in short supply. [Read the commentary.](#)

## **GBC Events**

#### **May 17 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC Annual Meeting**

Mayor Catherine Pugh wants to tackle the public safety issues facing the city, but she needs the business community's help. Among the pomp and circumstance at the Greater Baltimore Committee's 62nd Annual Meeting Monday evening, a theme of how best to deal with public safety issues facing Baltimore stood out. GBC Chair Stephanie Hill said the organization wants to help Baltimore "focus forward" because improving the crime rate can affect business competitiveness. Pugh said businesses can help by hiring people. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 16 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC Annual Meeting**

Deputy U.S. Attorney General Rod Rosenstein encouraged Greater Baltimore's business community Monday night to come together to support city police officers while also not shying

away from commenting on the state of politics in Washington, D.C. The former U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, Rosenstein has been at the center of the national controversy around President Donald Trump's firing of former FBI Director James Comey. He spoke at the Greater Baltimore Committee's Annual Meeting after receiving a public service award for his service in Maryland. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 16 The Baltimore Sun: GBC Annual Meeting**

U.S. Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein told a Baltimore business group Monday his top concern in Washington is defending the Constitution. The comment came less than a week after he was thrust into the national spotlight when the White House used a memo he wrote to explain why the FBI director was fired. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 16 The Daily Record: GBC Annual Meeting**

Deputy U.S. Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein said Baltimore needs to support its police force if the city is going to quell violent crime that too often kills the young and innocent. One of Rosenstein's final cases as Maryland's U.S. attorney resulted in the April indictments of seven alleged gang members. The men stand accused of crimes tied to the 2014 shooting death of 3-year-old McKenzie Elliott. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 15 Baltimore Snap: GBC Annual Meeting**

[View photos](#) from the GBC's Annual Meeting, taken by Sloane Brown for Baltimore SNAP (Style, Networking and Parties).

#### **May 15 The United States Department of Justice: GBC Annual Meeting**

The Greater Baltimore Committee Awards Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein the Howard "Pete" Rawlings Courage in Public Service Award. [Watch the video.](#)

## **Baltimore City Hall**

#### **May 31 WBAL-TV: Proposed Baltimore Police Department Budget Cuts**

Baltimore City Council President Jack Young responded to Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Don Fry, who wrote a letter urging the council not to cut the Police Department's budget by 1 percent – as proposed by the mayor – to help fund schools. "I don't know why Mr. Fry is so adamant and upset that the Police Department budget can't be cut. It was increased," Young said. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 31 The Daily Record: Proposed Baltimore Police Department Budget Cuts**

The Greater Baltimore Committee urged Baltimore City Council President Jack Young and the council not to cut police resources as outlined in Mayor Catherine Pugh's budget in a letter sent to Young last week. The letter from GBC President Donald Fry acknowledged Pugh's desire to spend more on education than law enforcement but called cuts to the police budget "troubling." "For a city experiencing historic levels of violence, reducing the city's commitment to crime fighting is troubling," Fry wrote. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 30 The Baltimore Sun: Proposed Baltimore Police Department Budget Cuts**

Baltimore's leading business group is urging the City Council not to cut the Police Department budget, arguing that reducing spending during a crime spike would put the public at risk. Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said in a letter to the council that public safety is elected officials' first responsibility. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 30 Baltimore Business Journal: Proposed Baltimore Police Department Budget Cuts**

Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald C. Fry said the city is in the midst of a "public safety crisis" and called attempts by some members of the City Council lawmakers cut police spending "troubling." In a letter Tuesday to Council President Bernard C. "Jack" Young and the other members of the City Council, Fry said the business community agrees the city should be investing more money in education and youth programs than in law enforcement, but should not be making cuts to the public safety budget. [Read the article.](#)

## **Additional Media Coverage**

#### **May 22 Baltimore Business Journal: Future of Baltimore's Waterfront**

GBC President and CEO Don Fry was among the panelists who participated on the Baltimore Business Journal's Future of Baltimore's Waterfront event on May 19. The panelists discussed

a wide range of issues, from how to improve transportation near the water, to how the development near the water can improve other areas of the city. [Read the article.](#)

**May 1 The Baltimore Sun: Crime in Baltimore**

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the pro-business Greater Baltimore Committee, said the business community is "disappointed in the high homicide numbers." But, he said, business leaders "have confidence the mayor and police commissioner are working to address the violence and are very focused and committed to ensuring that public safety is the No. 1 priority of city government." [Read the article.](#)

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