



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

GBC In The News: June - July 2017

Media highlights of the GBC in June and July 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

JUNE 2017

Don Fry Commentaries

June 15 The Daily Record: Solving Baltimore's Public Safety Crisis

As I read a headline in one of the local newspapers this past weekend, I had a sense of déjà vu. It read: "Amid record violence, worried Baltimoreans see a city in crisis." This view is shared widely in the article - by residents, community leaders, police and others - as they reflect on the terrible violence, largely gun-related, that continues to plague Baltimore. [Read the commentary.](#)

June 13: AHA Business Radio

Don Fry appeared on AHA Business Radio with Allan Hirsch on June 13. [Listen to the podcast.](#)

GBC Events

June 21 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC Newsmaker Breakfast

Maryland Transit Administration Acting CEO Kevin Quinn said he wants to work with developers of projects like Port Covington and Sparrows Point to ensure BaltimoreLink gets people to their jobs. Quinn expressed excitement about the new transportation system as he explained the theories and goals behind BaltimoreLink to business leaders at a breakfast event hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee. While the new system may be up and running, Quinn says the work is only just beginning. [Read the article.](#)

June 21 The Baltimore Sun: GBC Newsmaker Breakfast

Quinn gave the group of business leaders in the GBC's downtown office building a run-down of the new system's features, including bus-only lanes and traffic-light sensors aboard buses that will lengthen green lights and shorten red ones to speed them through downtown congestion. [Read the article.](#)

Additional Media Coverage**June 22 MarylandReporter.com: Maryland's Gaming Industry**

Sports betting is the latest frontier for the expansion of legalized gambling in Maryland, panelists at the Maryland Live! casino Thursday made clear. It is crucial to "get the federal government out of the way" of sports gambling, said Geoff Freeman, President and CEO of the American Gaming Association, which sponsored the event touting the industry's contribution to local jobs and nonprofits. [Read the article.](#)

June 22 The Baltimore Sun: Maryland's Gaming Industry

Live Casino & Hotel in Hanover teamed up with the American Gaming Association Thursday to promote business opportunities for small, minority-owned firms and highlight the industry's economic impact in Maryland. Association representatives are touring U.S. casinos to highlight gambling's impact on local businesses. Events at the Hanover facility included a minority business outreach fair and panel discussion with industry, state and county officials led by Donald Fry, president and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. "I've seen firsthand the positive impact the industry has had in Maryland" in creating jobs and spurring economic development and tourism, Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

June 22 WBAL-TV: Baltimore's Public Safety Crisis

The Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 3 president said the union isn't going to remain silent any longer about the violence in Baltimore City. Gene Ryan alleges the police department has no long-term plans to fight crime, and said the union plans to meet with community members to find a solution. Ryan said he's already reached out to some community members, including the Greater Baltimore Committee. [Read the article.](#)

June 21 The Baltimore Sun: Steam Pipe Explosion

Donald Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said the city should learn from the explosion. "Without knowing the cause of the explosion, this type of incident should serve as reminder to the city's leaders to ensure that they have a full assessment of all the condition of types of infrastructure and a long-range plan to invest in its maintenance and upkeep," Fry said in a statement. [Read the article.](#)

June 21 The Baltimore Sun: Baltimore's Public Safety Crisis

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said in a statement that the group's public safety task force has met with FOP officials to discuss "the public safety crisis in Baltimore" in the past, and "are more than happy to continue our discussions with the FOP or to engage with any organization that has ideas on how to end the violence." Fry said the GBC is "focused on developing a set of recommended solutions that can reduce the level of violent crime in the city and provide for more effective law enforcement efforts." "We don't believe there is a singular answer to solving this crisis," Fry said. "It is going to require a collaborative effort by the police, the local FOP, Mayor's office, State's Attorney's Office, federal and state government agencies, and business and community leaders. We are all in this together and must work as partners." [Read the article.](#)

June 12 The Baltimore Sun: Retirement of Ronald Peterson

One business leader credited Peterson for running a successful health conglomerate while also playing a strong civic role in the Baltimore region. For instance, Peterson was instrumental in creating job programs for those who are hard to employ, such as those who

were previously incarcerated, said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. "While he has been incredibly busy leading a large, complex health care organization, he has gone about quietly helping to address issues that face Baltimore in many ways," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

June 1 WBAL News Radio 1090: Baltimore Police Department Budget

Listen to Don Fry's comments about the Baltimore Police Department budget on the C4 Show. [Listen here](#) (scroll down to June 1 podcast).

JULY 2017

Don Fry Commentaries

July 21 The Daily Record: Illegal handgun laws

Passage of a proposed bill that would strengthen penalties for illegal handgun possession would help build the local momentum that is growing on this issue and keep the ideas and solutions flowing. It would also empower state legislators who represent Baltimore to make a strong case in Annapolis for even tougher handgun sanctions. [Read the commentary.](#)

GBC Events

July 19 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast

Baltimore City Public Schools is rolling out a new initiative aimed at improving learning outcomes and literacy among students. City Schools CEO Sonja Santelises described the vision for the system's new "blueprint" program to a crowd of about 60 business leaders at a forum hosted by Greater Baltimore Committee. [Read the article.](#)

July 19 WBAL News Radio 1090: Newsmaker Breakfast

Baltimore City Schools CEO Dr. Sonja Santelises talks with WBAL NewsRadio 1090's Scott Wykoff about the new "blueprint" for Baltimore City Schools as she shared it with business leaders at the Greater Baltimore Committee's Newsmaker Breakfast at the Inner Harbor. [Listen to the story.](#)

Baltimore City Hall

July 27 Baltimore Brew: Crime Fighting Strategies

The police have already beefed up patrols downtown and the Inner Harbor in response to complaints by Donald Fry, CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, and other business leaders. [Read the article.](#)

July 17 Baltimore Brew: Illegal Gun Possession

Councilmembers Leon F. Pinkett III, Issac "Yitzy" Schleifer and Robert Stokes Sr. stood with Pugh, Davis, state lawmakers, local ministers and Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald C. Fry and applauded her proposal. [Read the article.](#)

July 14 The Baltimore Sun: Illegal Gun Possession

Pugh, Davis, Young and Anderson were among a broad coalition of elected officials and other law enforcement, business and religious leaders who gathered to announce the bill Friday at City Hall. The group also included state Senator Joan Carter Conway, Chair of the city's Senate delegation; and Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. [Read the article.](#)

July 14 Baltimore Business Journal: Illegal Gun Possession

Donald C. Fry, the President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said he plans to help lobby state lawmakers to pass the bill during the next session. "We think this is a great first step," Fry said, adding that these bills have the support of local businesses. [Read the article.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

July 13 Baltimore Business Journal: Crime in Baltimore

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said the city is in crisis and that all parties - business, government, the police and the state's attorney office - need to join forces to address the violence. He said the exciting things happening in the city - new development projects, renewing of major leases downtown and more are being overshadowed by the bad. "Unfortunately, that good news gets drowned out by what seems to be a regular occurrence of violence," he said. "Businesses are making long-term investments. They see the violence that occurs. That's obviously very troublesome." [Read the article.](#)

July 2017 The Business Monthly: Maryland's Gaming Industry

Don Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, chaired the state's Video Lottery Facilities Location Commission that evaluated and selected the location, as well as the operators, for gaming operations in Maryland; the state's first casino opened seven years ago. "I've seen the positive impact, first-hand, that the industry has had in Maryland," Fry said. "Gaming has proven to be that catalyst for economic development, an employer for thousands [of workers] and a major source of tax revenues. We want to talk about how gaming can continue to thrive in the years ahead." [Read the article.](#)

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