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## GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

# GBC In The News: August - October 2017

*Media highlights of the GBC in August, September and October 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".

Donald C. Fry  
President & CEO

## AUGUST 2017

### **Don Fry Commentaries**

#### **August 24: The Daily Record**

To be truly effective in addressing violent crime in Baltimore will require both crime control (i.e. effective crime fighting strategies and tactics) and crime prevention (programs to provide enhanced education, after-school programs, and employment opportunities, to name a few). Baltimore needs to address violent crime with an eye on immediate steps, as well as investing in programs intended to yield lasting results. [Read the commentary.](#)

## GBC Events

### August 9 The Baltimore Sun: Newsmaker Breakfast with Ricky Smith

Lack of transportation presents the biggest obstacle to Baltimore residents who want to work at BWI Marshall Airport, the airport's CEO told a group of business executives on Wednesday. Passenger growth and more airlines has led to an expansion of the roughly 14,000-employee workforce, a number of whom do live in Baltimore. But getting Baltimoreans to the airport in Linthicum has been "a major challenge," Maryland Aviation Administrator Ricky Smith said. [Read the article.](#)

### August 9 The Daily Record: Newsmaker Breakfast with Ricky Smith

Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport CEO Ricky Smith said transportation shortcomings are hindering city residents' ability to get to job opportunities at the airport. Smith, during a Greater Baltimore Committee Newsmaker Breakfast on Wednesday where he discussed topics ranging from planned upgrades to competing for customers in the Washington area, singled out transportation issues as holding back the airport's ability to serve as a job hub for the city. [Read the article.](#)

## Additional Media Coverage

### August 29 The Baltimore Sun: RedOwl Sale

Don Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said RedOwl's story is an example of how a startup can continue to thrive in Baltimore after an acquisition, while drawing in new businesses. "The fact is you've got a major company like Raytheon that has recognized the talent and the cutting-edge technology that exists in that company," Fry said. "I think that may be a signal to others to start recognizing the type of talent we have here in Baltimore." [Read the article.](#)

## SEPTEMBER 2017

## Don Fry Commentaries

### September 22 The Daily Record: The Future of Transportation

Without question, ideas and innovation in transportation are boundless and the revolution is underway. As we have seen in business and our personal lives, technology is at the root of the change and expediting the speed by which this revolution is thrust upon us. [Read the commentary.](#)

## GBC Events

### September 26 Baltimore Business Journal: Amazon

Last week, Greg Fitchitt, a top Howard Hughes executive, cast doubt on Howard County's chances as the site of Amazon's second headquarters. "We would love to have Amazon here as well," Fitchitt told the audience at a business breakfast hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee, "but I think to be frank, to be honest about it, they [Baltimore] have land there; they have the incentive structures in place already." "Every place in the country is going to be competing to try and get Amazon to their town, but I think Baltimore has a real shot with what they have at Port Covington," he added. [Read the article.](#)

### September 22 Baltimore Business Journal: Amazon

Greg Fitchitt, a Senior Vice President of Development for Howard Hughes, said Friday that if Baltimore manages to attract Amazon it would be "transformative" for the city and for the region. "We would like to have Amazon here as well," he told the audience at a business breakfast hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee, "but I think to be frank, to be honest about it, they (Baltimore) have land there; they have the incentive structures in place already." [Read the article.](#)

### September 20 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast

University of Maryland President Wallace Loh said one of the most important things he has had a hand in during his six-year tenure is establishing the strategic partnership with the

University of Maryland, Baltimore. The five-year partnership, officially known as "MPowering the State," is designed to grow research collaborations among the campuses. The initiative includes joint faculty appointments and academic offerings, shared resources and new cross-disciplinary research facilities, like the Center for Sports Medicine, Health and Human Performance - to be housed in University of Maryland's redesigned \$155 million Cole Field House. [Read the article.](#)

#### **September 20 The Daily Record: Newsmaker Breakfast**

University of Maryland President Wallace Loh asked Baltimore business leaders to consider the entire Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area as the university pursues a bid to bring Amazon's second headquarters to College Park. Loh, speaking at the Greater Baltimore Committee's Newsmaker Breakfast, also touted the strength of the partnership between the University of Maryland, College Park, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, as a powerful economic development tool, one that can prove attractive to recruiting companies like Amazon. [Read the article.](#)

#### **September 14 Baltimore Business Journal: Economic Outlook Conference**

Business owners may be excited about things like health care reform and tax reform, but Warren Deschenaux says they should be wary of the impact on Maryland's economy because of the state's reliance on the federal government. Deschenaux, Executive Director of the non-partisan Department of Legislative Services, was part of a panel of experts who spoke at the Greater Baltimore Committee's Economic Outlook Forum Thursday. [Read the article.](#)

### **Additional Media Coverage**

#### **September 8 ABC2 WMAR Baltimore: Amazon**

In addition to the location, Port Covington is a state enterprise zone already giftwrapped with a half billion dollar TIF passed earlier this year to facilitate development. "The buzz was immediate, the excitement was there and people think this could be a turn-around opportunity for Baltimore in so many ways," said Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Don Fry. [Watch the video.](#)

## **OCTOBER 2017**

### **Don Fry Commentaries**

#### **October 17 Baltimore Business Journal: Federal Tax Credits**

What the tax debate in Washington will mean for Maryland is unclear. It's a headwind that could blow in any direction. What is clear is that if Congress does pass the Trump tax plan as outlined so far, more than a few Maryland businesses, taxpayers and legislators could be in for stormy weather indeed. [Read the commentary.](#)

### **GBC Events**

#### **October 18 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast**

The head of University of Maryland's Shock Trauma Center wants to formulate a disaster plan for "when, not if" the city is affected by a terror attack or mass shooting event. "Why wouldn't there be a terrorist attack here? I think it's not a matter of when, not if it happens to us," Scalea told business leaders during a meeting at the Greater Baltimore Committee Wednesday morning in downtown Baltimore. "And we have great organization, but not a great plan." [Read the article.](#)

#### **October 18 The Baltimore Sun: Newsmaker Breakfast**

The head of the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center said Wednesday that Baltimore has the medical facilities to handle a tragedy such as the mass shooting in Las Vegas earlier this month. But Dr. Thomas M. Scalea, also a professor of trauma at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, said there is not a thorough plan on how to handle such a major incident. "We have a great organization," he said at the Greater Baltimore Committee Newsmaker Breakfast. "We don't have a great plan." [Read the article.](#)

#### **October 11 WBAL NewsRadio 1090: GBC Transportation Summit**

The Greater Baltimore Committee's Transportation Summit focused on the transformational impact of innovative approaches to transportation and its potential effect on travel in major urban areas and how innovative approaches could be a viable substitute for current modes of travel. [Listen to the news story.](#)

#### **October 11 The Daily Record: GBC Transportation Summit**

Ride hailing companies Uber and Lyft believe their services will not only revolutionize transportation in urban areas but alter how cities are designed in the future. Robert Grant, Senior Director of Public Policy for North America Lyft, and Uber's Director of Public Affairs Colin Tooze, explained during the Greater Baltimore Committee's Transportation Summit on Wednesday how the companies plan to use technologies, such as self-driving vehicles, to drastically reduce the number of cars on city streets. "(It's) an alternate to a world that looks like a parking lot and moves like a traffic jam," Tooze said. [Read the article.](#)

#### **October 11 The Baltimore Sun: GBC Transportation Summit**

A five-minute maglev trip between downtown Baltimore and BWI Marshall Airport could give the city a major boost in the competition for Amazon's second North American headquarters, a Northeast Maglev official said Wednesday. It's a new pitch for the proposed \$10 billion-12 billion high-speed rail project, which promises to shorten the trip between Baltimore and Washington to 15 minutes - and, eventually, connect D.C. and New York in an hour. Jeff Hirschberg, Vice Chairman of The Northeast Maglev, gave a brief update to area business leaders on the project during remarks Wednesday morning at the Greater Baltimore Committee's Transportation Summit at the Marriott Inner Harbor. Colin Tooze, Director of Public Affairs at Uber, and Robert Grant, Senior Director of Public Policy for North America at Lyft, also presented at the event. [Read the article.](#)

## **Baltimore City Hall**

#### **October 19 The Baltimore Sun: Police Tax Credits**

The pro-business Greater Baltimore Committee argued that enticing more police to live in Baltimore could improve relationships with the community and increase public safety. "Incentivizing police officers and other public safety professionals to live in the communities where they work is a good step forward and could go a long way toward fixing the damaged relationship that exists," said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the GBC. [Read the article.](#)

## **Additional Media Coverage**

#### **October 18 Baltimore Business Journal: Amazon Proposal**

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said the city's bid for Amazon's HQ2 would help to boost the local and statewide business base because of its so-called "Amazon effect." "This is a tremendous day for the city," Fry said, after the bid was signed and sent. [Read the article.](#)

#### **October 18 The Daily Record: Amazon Proposal**

"The thing we have to recognize is that 50,000 people are not going to drop in overnight by parachute. So we're going to have some time upon being awarded this facility to identify what sort of transportation gaps there may be, and what we may need to (cover) those. There's not a better, compelling story for the need for a certain project than the fact that you're going to have this sort of economic activity," said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of The Greater Baltimore Committee, who was a staunch advocate for the Red Line. [Read the article.](#)

#### **October 18 SouthBmore.com: Amazon Proposal**

Greater Baltimore Committee is supporting Port Covington's proposal. "This would be the largest economic boost I have seen in my long career in the public and private sector," Don Fry, GBC President and CEO, told SouthBMore.com. He also noted that some member of GBC's board have previous experience in dealings with Amazon Founder Jeff Bezos. [Read the article.](#)

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