



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

GBC In The News: November 2017 - January 2018

Media highlights of the GBC in November, December and January.

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 and record regular commentaries in the *Baltimore Business Journal*, *The Daily Record*, WBAL NewsRadio 1090 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

NOVEMBER 2017

Don Fry Commentaries

November 27 WBAL Radio: Public Safety

Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh recently proclaimed "Violence is out of control." The business community applauds the mayor for publicly acknowledging the public safety crisis and announcing that the city will take new steps to address the violence. Short and long-term crime fighting strategies - and a sense of urgency - are needed. The most basic responsibility of any government is to provide for the safety of its citizens. Government leaders must be held accountable for reducing violent crime and homicides. But it will take more - the business, philanthropic and faith based communities and citizens in the neighborhoods must roll up their sleeves, too. It's going to take everyone to be "all in" to effectively address violent crime in Baltimore. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

November 16 The Daily Record: Public Safety

The most basic responsibility and promise of any government is to provide for the safety of its citizens. It's going to take all vested parties to be "all in" on this, including the business community and others. But it's high time the city deliver. [Read the commentary.](#)

November 15 The Baltimore Sun: Public Safety

There is no bigger issue than the safety of residents, the workforce and visitors to Baltimore. Complacency or acceptance of the current rate of violent crime is unacceptable. Enough is enough! [Read the op/ed.](#)

GBC Events**November 15 The Baltimore Sun: Newsmaker Breakfast**

Leading a major hospital in an era where health care is a political hot button means having to deal with constant change and uncertainty, the presidents of Baltimore's two major medical centers told business leaders Wednesday. Dr. Mohan Suntha, speaking to members of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said that just that morning, he awoke to texts asking what he thought about tax reform efforts moving through Congress. [Read the article.](#)

November 15 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast

Dr. Mohan Suntha, President of the University of Maryland Medical Center, and Dr. Redonda Miller, President of Johns Hopkins Hospital, agreed all of this turmoil and confusion has made it tricky for their institutions to focus on innovation and how they plan to provide health care into the future - mostly because they are not quite sure what the future will look like. "It strains our ability to align everything we are trying to do," Suntha said, during a panel discussion at the Greater Baltimore Committee Wednesday. "If you keep constantly changing the rules of the game, it's hard for anyone to win." [Read the article.](#)

November 2 The Daily Record: Bridging the Gap

Twenty Baltimore-area companies Wednesday night were named winners of the Greater Baltimore Committee's 14th Annual Bridging the Gap Achievement Awards. [Read the article.](#)

November 1 Baltimore Snap: Bridging the Gap Achievement Awards

Check out the photo gallery from the GBC's 14th Annual Bridging the Gap Achievement Awards on November 1. [View the photo gallery.](#)

Additional Media Coverage**November 18 The Baltimore Sun: Public Safety**

"We have experienced a very disheartening week and a rash of incidents of violent crime and homicides," said Don Fry, President and CEO of the pro-business Greater Baltimore Committee. "One of the things that this clearly does is it overwhelms the good news and positive things that are occurring in the city every day." [Read the article.](#)

November 2 The Daily Record: CSX

Railroad operator CSX's decision to drop plans for an expanded Howard Street Tunnel caught state and local economic development officials, who have long touted the project, off guard. The company announced this week it no longer backs the expanding the 1.7 mile tunnel through downtown Baltimore. The project had been strongly supported by Governor Larry Hogan and organizations, such as the Greater Baltimore Committee. [Read the article.](#)

DECEMBER 2017**Don Fry Commentaries****December 28 The Daily Record: Restoring Trust in the Federal Legislative Process**

Forty-one states, including Maryland, have a constitutionally imposed or implied one-subject rule for legislation. The one-subject rule requires a bill to address or contain a single subject. In most states, like Maryland, this extends to a one-subject title requirement, which is intended to avoid misleading the public about the content of a bill. In the U.S., these rules date back to the

19th century, as citizens sought to prevent their elected officials from adopting unsavory proposals as part of more popular legislation. If our congressional leaders are serious about reform and restoring American's trust in the legislative process, taking it upon themselves to adopt the single-subject rule would be a boon to transparency and help restore faith in government. [Read the commentary.](#)

GBC Events

December 19 Baltimore Business Journal: Breakfast Briefing

Dr. Leana Wen, Baltimore's Health Commissioner, said business owners should provide treatment access and help fight stigma around addiction issues, as the city continues to battle an opioid crisis. The Baltimore City Health Department has implemented several initiatives aimed at combating the opioid epidemic under Wen's leadership, including a blanket prescription to allow anyone in the city to obtain the opioid overdose reversal drug, naloxone. Wen spoke to a group of business leaders Tuesday at the Greater Baltimore Committee, to tell them how corporations can get involved in the fight. [Read the article.](#)

December 19 The Baltimore Sun: Breakfast Briefing

Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen told business leaders Tuesday that they can play a role in fighting the opioid epidemic and offered examples of how they can help. Wen spoke at a monthly Newsmaker Breakfast sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Committee. She said one thing businesses can do to help curb the staggering number of overdoses facing the country is to have their employees trained to administer naloxone. Naloxone is the drug used to reverse opioid overdoses. [Read the article.](#)

December 18 WBAL-TV 11: Tax Reform

Maryland's senior U.S. senator met Monday with Baltimore business leaders, issuing a warning that when - not if, but when - the GOP tax bill becomes law, it means most Marylanders will pay more in taxes. GBC President and CEO Donald Fry said the GOP measure means good news for some members. "Well, certainly, we think from a business perspective (that) the reduction in the corporate income tax is going to be beneficial; some of the concerns we have (to) deal with, some of the earlier discussions dealing with eliminating some deductions, dealing with not-for-profit organizations and some of the endowments for the hospitals," Fry said. [Watch the news story.](#)

December 6 The Daily Record: Mayor's Business Recognition Awards

Fourteen businesses were honored Wednesday as winners of the 2017 Mayor's Business Recognition Awards. The annual awards event, which is presented by the Greater Baltimore Committee, the Baltimore Development Corporation and the Mayor's Office, honors businesses for their outstanding corporate leadership, commitment to community and dedication to improving the quality of life in Baltimore City. [Read the article.](#)

Baltimore City Hall

December 13 Associated Press: Roca

A new anti-violence program will focus on helping high-risk young men in Baltimore without relying on the criminal justice system. The initiative is expected to cost at least \$16 million. Pugh has secured \$10 million from charities and the private sector. [Read the article.](#)

December 13 Baltimore Business Journal: Roca

The Greater Baltimore Committee raised \$6.5 million to help Baltimore launch the Roca program, an anti-crime program successful in Massachusetts. GBC member companies Baltimore Gas and Electric Co., Johns Hopkins University, T. Rowe Price Group Inc. and Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. joined Mayor Catherine Pugh at City Hall on Wednesday to announce the program's funding. [Read the article.](#)

December 13 The Baltimore Sun: Roca

Mayor Catherine Pugh said Wednesday that an anti-violence program that focuses on the most troubled teenage boys and young men is coming to Baltimore, thanks to \$10 million donated by charities and business leaders. Pugh had been seeking \$16 million to bring the program, called Roca, to Baltimore for four years. She received commitments from several private foundations totaling \$3.5 million, and at a meeting with the Greater Baltimore Committee last week secured \$6.5 million more from businesses. [Read the article.](#)

December 13 The Daily Record: Roca

Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh announced Wednesday that the city has been accepted into a widely praised program for easing youth violence after philanthropic groups and businesses agreed to contribute \$10 million to help finance the program. Baltimore was able to secure a role in the program after four businesses supplemented some \$3.6 million provided by unnamed philanthropic donations with commitments of \$6.5 million, Pugh said. Those businesses - T. Rowe Price Group, Johns Hopkins University, Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. and BGE - learned of the city's need after Pugh broached the subject at a Greater Baltimore Committee meeting. [Read the article.](#)

December 13 ABC 2 WMAR Baltimore: Roca

Mayor Catherine Pugh held a press conference Wednesday afternoon to announce an anti-violence program in partnership with ROCA. [Watch the clip.](#)

December 13 Fox 45 News: Roca

Baltimore's Mayor announced a plan to bring an anti-violence program to Baltimore. Members of Baltimore's business community along with the Police Commissioner, State's Attorney and City Council members made the announcement at City Hall Wednesday. [Watch the clip.](#)

December 13 WBAL TV 11: Roca

Mayor Catherine Pugh announced plans Wednesday to bring an antiviolence program to Baltimore. Pugh said that Roca, a nationally-recognized, Massachusetts-based group focused on reducing violence has been picked to lead the initiative. Pugh said bringing the Roca program to Baltimore City will cost \$17 million. Pugh said it is money well spent, and, based on past performance, she is confident it will reduce violent crime in the city, especially when it comes to juveniles. [Watch the clip.](#)

December 13 WJZ CBS Baltimore: Roca

Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Don Fry said reducing the number of homicides and violent crime is "the top issue" facing the city. "We commend the Mayor's determined efforts to bring Roca to Baltimore," Fry said. [Watch the clip.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

December 9 The Baltimore Sun: Public Safety

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said the business community "wants city and state politicians to remain hyper-focused" on fighting crime and avoid political bickering. "Providing for the safety of its citizens transcends political parties or philosophies," Fry said. "Teamwork is the key." [Read the article.](#)

December 8 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC Board Chair

The Greater Baltimore Committee's Board of Directors on Friday tapped high-profile attorney Paul Tiburzi, Senior Partner at DLA Piper, as its new chair. Tiburzi replaces Stephanie C. Hill, a top executive at Lockheed Martin. Hill stepped down after her promotion to Senior Vice President for Corporate Strategy and Business Development for Lockheed. She cited increased responsibilities at her new job at the defense contractor. [Read the article.](#)

December 8 The Baltimore Sun: GBC Board Chair

Paul A. Tiburzi grew up in Baltimore's Highlandtown, the son of a city police sergeant and a seamstress. From that blue-collar beginning, Tiburzi became a leading lawyer for one of the nation's most powerful law firms. And on Friday, the DLA Piper attorney was elected Chairman of the city's leading business organization. [Read the article.](#)

December 8 The Daily Record: GBC Board Chair

Paul A. Tiburzi, a Partner at DLA Piper's Baltimore office, has been elected as the new Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Greater Baltimore Committee. He succeeds outgoing GBC Chairwoman, Stephanie Hill, Senior Vice President for Corporate Strategy and Business Development for Lockheed Martin. [Read the article.](#)

December 5 Bisnow: The Future of Baltimore

"I'm fairly confident that, as we see the conversion of older office buildings to apartments, it will create opportunities for retail operations to see a critical mass of population, and businesses to

see that they would already have a highly talented workforce of millennials, specifically in tech," Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Don Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

JANUARY 2018

Don Fry Commentaries

January 29 The Baltimore Sun: Amazon

The leadership, effort and teamwork that went into developing the final proposal should be viewed as a useful and empowering experience. While it served as a reminder that the city has challenges, it also brought to light the many strengths of the city that often go unnoticed. In the long run, the Amazon effort has Baltimore well positioned for the next big opportunity that emerges. [Read the op/ed.](#)

January 18 The Daily Record: Regulation Reform

Governor Larry Hogan is certainly to be commended by the business community for following through on his promise to ease the onus that state regulations and bureaucratic red tape can impose on businesses and their ability to make efficiently operate, create jobs and thrive. It is interesting to note that in 2010 - five years before the governor formed the regulatory reform commission - the Greater Baltimore Committee recognized the importance of regulatory policy reform and was out in front of this very issue with its report, "Gaining a Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland." [Read the commentary.](#)

January 11 WBAL Radio 1090: Federal Tax Reform

The Maryland General Assembly opened the 2018 legislative session with its usual pomp and circumstance. But behind the upbeat tone, uncertainty looms on the horizon. Why? It's election year. Politics is always in play during any legislative session but it has a stronger presence with election day ahead. The less obvious reason is the tax reform recently passed by Congress. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

January 30 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC's Maryland General Assembly Legislative Forum

"This is obviously, to say the least, a very interesting legislative session," said Keiffer Mitchell Jr., a Special Adviser to Hogan, said of the current 90-day General Assembly. "I will admit, there is some tension." Mitchell told business leaders at a Greater Baltimore Committee breakfast event Monday that Hogan will use the address to call on lawmakers to work with his administration to pass some of the 27 pieces of legislation he has proposed. "He will be stressing, as he has before, bipartisanship in terms of some of the proposals he is putting forth and wanting to work with members of the legislature to get these initiatives passed," Mitchell said. [Read the article.](#)

January 29 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC's Maryland General Assembly Legislative Forum

Maryland State Senator J.B. Jennings was candid with the audience at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore on Monday. "I used to bash Baltimore," Jennings, the Senate's Minority Leader, told the crowd at the Greater Baltimore Committee Maryland General Assembly Legislative Forum. "It was easy to do." Jennings, who represents Harford and Baltimore counties, said he has had to change his view. And as the city faces one of its worst crime waves in decades, he said it was imperative for everyone - regardless of where they live in the metro area - to do something to quell the violence. [Read the article.](#)

January 26 Baltimore Business Journal: Amazon HQ2

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said Friday business leaders would continue to pursue other corporate opportunities for the city. "It's clear that Amazon was impressed with Baltimore's proposal and the many positive assets of high value in the city," Fry said in a statement. "The GBC and leaders throughout the city will continue to highlight and promote these strengths locally and nationally." [Read the article.](#)

January 22 Baltimore Business Journal: Podcast: Maryland General Assembly

"Budget is the No. 1 issue each and every year in the General Assembly," Fry said. "And limiting the itemized deductions and making some of the changes [in the tax bill] may have significant impact on the revenues of the state of Maryland. There's a lot of issues that have come up in just the last three weeks that may have not been anticipated in September." [Listen to the podcast.](#)

January 18 Baltimore Business Journal: Amazon

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, was at Pugh's side in City Hall. He, too, offered no clue as to why the city's bid lost out. "We also are disappointed that Baltimore did not make the cut. But hopefully our willingness to work together as a group will help attract other companies to come this way," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

January 10 Baltimore Business Journal: Maryland General Assembly

"It's the last year of the term and members of the General Assembly want to celebrate the things they have accomplished," said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. "But that's complicated by the uncertainty of activities at the federal level. You consider that with the political polarization that exists and along with there being an election on the horizon, that may make things more difficult for them." [Read the article.](#)

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