



## GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

# GBC In The News: February - May 2018

*Media highlights of the GBC in February, March, April and May.*

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* on WBAL News Radio 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", is positioned above the typed name.

Donald C. Fry  
President & CEO

## FEBRUARY 2018

### Don Fry Commentaries

#### **February 27 WBAL News Radio 1090: Baltimore's Transit System**

Baltimore got a rude awakening regarding the dire condition of its Metro system when the MTA abruptly shut it down because portions of the track are unsafe. The Metro will remain closed for repairs until mid-March. It's unconscionable that this critical link in Baltimore's mass transit network was allowed to fall into this state of disrepair. But when it comes to mass transit, Baltimore continually gets the short end of the stick. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

#### **February 15 The Daily Record: Public Safety**

On the public safety front, Governor Larry Hogan stepped up when he introduced a package of bills to be considered by the General Assembly. The legislative proposals are primarily aimed

at addressing homicides and other violent crime in Baltimore. The bills are not a magic fix, but they are sensible new tools to address violent crime. [Read the commentary.](#)

## Additional Media Coverage

### February 14 Baltimore Business Journal: Public Safety

Mayor Catherine Pugh on Wednesday touted a drop in crime to start the year, largely crediting her violence reduction initiative, while saying there was still more work to do. The mayor touted that Roca, a violence-reduction initiative based out of Massachusetts, would be launching in Baltimore this summer after the Greater Baltimore Committee helped secure \$6.5 million in funding for the project. Additionally, she said the city would be directing some of the \$5 million grant awarded to the city by Bloomberg Philanthropies to purchase new closed-circuit television cameras to place in high-crime areas to reduce police response time and improve the rate at which criminals are caught and charged. [Read the article.](#)

### February 8 Maryland Public Television: Maryland General Assembly

Watch GBC President and CEO Don Fry discuss the 2018 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly on the February 8 episode of Maryland Public Television's Your Money and Business. [Watch the interview.](#)

### February 6 Baltimore Business Journal: Paid Sick Leave

"Small businesses and employers of all sizes need ample opportunity to prepare for changes related to record keeping, human resources, payroll and ensuring that all employees receive proper notice as required by law," said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. [Read the article.](#)

### February 1: CEO Club of Baltimore

GBC President and CEO Don Fry was the featured guest at the February 1 meeting of the CEO Club of Baltimore. He discussed a myriad of topics, including the history and goals of the GBC, Baltimore's economy and business climate and the 2018 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly. [Watch the dialogue from the event.](#)

## MARCH 2018

## Don Fry Commentaries

### March 15 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast

It was concerning to read the Baltimore Business Journal's story on the Greater Baltimore Committee's March 8 Newsmaker Breakfast event featuring Drew Vetter, Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. The article came up short providing readers with a complete picture of Mr. Vetter's impressive presentation, which included details of the comprehensive crime reduction strategy pursued by Mayor Catherine Pugh and law enforcement officials to reduce violent crime in Baltimore. [Read the letter to the editor.](#)

### March 15 The Daily Record: Newsmaker Breakfast

There is good news worth noting in the fight against violent crime in Baltimore City. The number of homicides and non-fatal shootings have been trending downward over the past four months. [Read the commentary.](#)

## GBC Events

### March 8 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the GBC, urged the business representatives at the forum to contact state and local elected officials to discuss crime issues and funding. "As businesspeople, we need to say this is what we need to feel safe in our city," Fry told them. [Read the article.](#)

### March 8 The Baltimore Sun: Newsmaker Breakfast

Drew Vetter described the recent initiatives the mayor's office has promoted to decrease violence, including the Violence Reduction Initiative that targets specific problem areas with an increased police presence, and other agencies to address issues, such as vacant houses,

lighting and trash. Vetter also spoke about improvements in technology for the police department, including additional CitiWatch cameras and a new ShotSpotter system to detect gun discharges, and new laptops in police vehicles. [Read the article.](#)

### **March 8 The Daily Record: Newsmaker Breakfast**

Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald C. Fry urged business leaders and employers to contact state and local representatives to make clear their desire for action to reduce crime. The GBC has endorsed a series of crime-reduction measures now pending in the General Assembly. [Read the article.](#)

## **Additional Media Coverage**

### **March 28 Baltimore Business Journal: City Budget**

The city will kick in an extra \$1 million to start the Roca anti-crime program, and add to the private donations already leveraged by the Greater Baltimore Committee and Pugh for the program. [Read the article.](#)

### **March 8 Baltimore Business Journal: CEO of the Year and the Power 10 Awards**

Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald C. Fry is among the BBJ's Power 10 honorees, a group of 20 leaders - all of whom either serve on the GBC's Board of Directors or are from GBC member companies - who are making a significant impact on their companies and communities, according to the BBJ. Donald P. Hutchinson, a former GBC CEO, received the inaugural CEO of the Year award. Hutchinson was recognized as the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award honoree at a March 8 awards dinner. [Read the article.](#)

## **APRIL 2018**

## **Don Fry Commentaries**

### **April 20 The Daily Record: Maryland General Assembly**

During the 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly, the legislature approved measures to ensure that repeat violent offenders faced longer and guaranteed prison terms, increased penalties for the second or subsequent offense of certain firearms crimes, guaranteed funding for programs such as Safe Streets, victim and witness relocation, the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program and more. Legislators adopted policies supportive of addressing Baltimore's crime problem, including initiatives consistent with the GBC's two-pronged approach of crime control and prevention. But legislation alone doesn't solve the public safety problem. We must now work as a community to use the tools provided by the legislature to ensure that public safety no longer threatens the economic vitality of one of the state's most important economic engines. [Read the commentary.](#)

### **April 6 WBAL News Radio 1090: Greater Baltimore Region's Economic Impact**

Don Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, examines the Baltimore region's impact on Maryland's economy. The Baltimore region has over 238,000 registered businesses. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

### **April 1 11 TV Hill: Baltimore's Population**

Despite the population drop in Baltimore City, the metro area as a whole grew, moving up one spot on a nationwide ranking to the 20th largest city in the country. But it remains troubling to see people leave Charm City. That leaves the question of what this trend could look like if it continues. With a business perspective is President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, Donald Fry. [Watch the segment.](#)

## **GBC Events**

### **April 29 MarylandReporter.com: Maryland Gubernatorial Forum**

Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz caught me snoozing at Thursday night's forum with seven Democrats running for governor, writes The Baltimore Sun's Michael Dresser. Maybe their rhetoric had not been compelling enough to keep me awake, he suggested. True enough, but I should not have sat in the front row seats the Greater Baltimore Committee had

reserved for reporters. My natural tendency is to sit toward the back - both for easy retreat and to gauge the reaction of the crowd. [Read the article.](#)

#### **April 26 The Baltimore Sun: Maryland Gubernatorial Forum**

The seven Democratic contenders for the party's nomination for governor struggled mightily to distinguish themselves from the herd at a forum in Baltimore on Thursday night. None obviously succeeded. The gathering, hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee and Associated Black Charities, illustrated the difficulties of breaking away from the pack in a race with few deep philosophical differences. [Read the article.](#)

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

Commissioner Darryl De Sousa told business leaders Wednesday he wants to "knock the whole house down" and completely rebuild the Baltimore Police Department. De Sousa, a 30-year veteran of the Baltimore Police Department who was sworn in as commissioner in February after replacing Kevin Davis, compared fixing the department to repairing a home with a leak. He laid out an ambitious plan for the department at a breakfast hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee that includes setting an entirely new foundation based on seven main "pillars" like reducing crime and using community policing to garner trust with residents. [Read the article.](#)

#### **April 4 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast**

Former University System of Maryland Chancellor William E. "Brit" Kirwan said Marylanders' hyper-localized mindset is hurting the state's potential to be internationally competitive in its quality of education. Kirwan chairs the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education - nicknamed the Kirwan Commission - which is heading up a state effort to make the state's schools more competitive on a national and world stage. Speaking to the Greater Baltimore Committee Wednesday, he pointed to data that shows Maryland students overall fall about in the middle of the pack when it comes to reading and math abilities. The state's fourth graders rank 29th in math and 26th in reading skills nationally, according to the National Assessment of Education Progress. [Read the article.](#)

## **Additional Media Coverage**

#### **April 19 The Daily Record: Brookings Institute**

A new report assessing the plight and future of America's older industrial cities has found that Baltimore, while beset by daunting social ills, is better-placed than many of its peers to rebuild its economic prosperity. Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said the report was spot-on in its assessment, both in its findings that the city has strong assets, such as major research institutions, as well as serious drawbacks. "A challenge - and opportunity - going forward is for Baltimore to invest in the neighborhoods that have not been able to participate fully in the technology-based economy and its rising tide," Fry said. "As the GBC has been saying for a decade, Baltimore must invest in modern, efficient, rapid transportation that connects these areas and their residents with new and emerging job hubs, as well as the proper training and education so they can fully participate in the new economy driving Baltimore's job growth and prosperity." [Read the article.](#)

#### **April 12 Baltimore Business Journal: Maryland General Assembly**

Along with the Single Sales Factor Coalition, the Greater Baltimore Committee has also advocated for the change for several years. Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, called single sales factor an "important economic development tool for building a competitive and fair tax system." "It can cause companies to relocate here and grow and expand in Maryland," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

#### **April 11 The Daily Record: Maryland General Assembly**

Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald C. Fry counted an omnibus crime bill passed by the General Assembly this year among the victories for his organization's members. Business interests in the region have warned that crime in the city is a detriment to Baltimore's business environment. The GBC, Fry said, has long advocated for a two-pronged approach to fighting crime that includes tougher sentencing for repeat violent offenders and increased funding for diversionary programs. "We are pleased to see much of what was adopted was in line with our approach," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

#### **April 10 Baltimore Business Journal: Sine Die**

Though Hogan's own paid sick leave bill never moved forward, the tax credit bill passed both chambers of the General Assembly unanimously. Business advocates praised the bill. Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said it helps businesses that are operating on thin margins and struggling to provide employer benefits. "This legislation is a good step to offset some of the costs associated with those benefits and help these small businesses to grow and thrive," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

#### **April 5 The Daily Record: Public Safety**

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore President Kirby Fowler's exhortation follows a Greater Baltimore Committee event in March where some executives raised concerns about crime and quality-of-life issues downtown. The complaints were widely reported by Baltimore's news media. Coverage of the event has been criticized by city officials and business leaders, including by Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald C. Fry. [Read the article.](#)

#### **April 3 The Baltimore Sun: Port Covington**

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, a group of business and civic leaders that strongly supported Port Covington, said he was pleased to hear that more buildings were getting underway at Port Covington. He said the development holds "great promise" for Baltimore. Fry said the property was well suited to become a full neighborhood, with a variety of amenities for all kinds of city residents. He said he would welcome a variety of venues on the site, including a new arena, given the cramped space and aging structure of the current Royal Farms Arena facility on downtown's West Side. [Read the article.](#)

## MAY 2018

### **Don Fry Commentaries**

#### **May 18 The Daily Record: 2018 Greater Baltimore State of the Region Report**

Construction cranes are prevalent throughout the Baltimore region these days - from downtown Baltimore to Towson, Columbia and beyond - and to many they are the most visible sign of changes afoot in Baltimore City and the surrounding counties. But the recently released 2018 Greater Baltimore State of the Region Report makes clear that other changes have occurred during the 20-year period studied. These changes, although not as starkly visible as construction cranes, are significant nonetheless. The report, published earlier this week by the Greater Baltimore Committee and Baltimore Metropolitan Council, compared the Baltimore Metropolitan Statistical Area to 19 other comparable metro regions, such as Atlanta, Dallas and Pittsburgh. The Baltimore MSA includes: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Carroll County, Howard County, Harford County and Queen Anne's County. [Read the column.](#)

### **GBC Events**

#### **May 24 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC Newsmaker Breakfast**

The 2015 unrest in Baltimore did not hurt home sales and the housing market is showing strength three years later, Live Baltimore Executive Director Annie Milli told business leaders on Thursday. Milli, speaking at a Greater Baltimore Committee breakfast event, encouraged the attendees to "challenge Baltimore bashing with data." She used data gathered by Live Baltimore to paint a positive picture of Baltimore's housing market. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 15 The Daily Record: GBC Annual Meeting**

"The Preakness is Baltimore's Super Bowl. The (Greater Baltimore Committee), and I commit to working with the mayor to keep the Preakness in Baltimore, where it belongs forever," said Paul A. Tiburzi, a Partner at DLA Piper, and newly elected Chairman of the Greater Baltimore Committee, during his remarks at the organization's Annual Meeting on Monday night. Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said the importance of hosting the event goes beyond tradition, and speaks to the city's economic potential. "The Preakness is a premiere sporting event that has been held in Baltimore for decades. It provides incredible exposure to the city and demonstrates Baltimore hosts premiere events, sporting and otherwise," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 15 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC Annual Meeting**



Paul Tiburzi spoke boldly about the future of the Preakness in his first address as Chairman of the Greater Baltimore Committee at the organization's Annual Meeting Monday night. The Greater Baltimore Committee has always been known for accomplishing "big things," Tiburzi said. Clarence Miles, the first Chairman, helped bring the Orioles to Baltimore and Jim Rouse developed Harborplace. One of Tiburzi's top goals is to keep the Preakness in Baltimore. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 14 Baltimore SNAP: GBC Annual Meeting**

[Check out photos](#) from the Greater Baltimore Committee's 63rd Annual Meeting on May 14.

#### **May 14 The Baltimore Sun: GBC Annual Meeting**

Some days are tough, humiliating even, but everyone needs to carry on, Hallie Jackson, the Chief White House Correspondent for NBC News, told a full room of business, government and civic leaders at the Greater Baltimore Committee's 63rd Annual Meeting. "Come from a place of yes and make it work," said Jackson, using challenges from her career as a guidepost for Baltimore, which she said has had its share of hardship. "Always find the right people to guide you." [Read the article.](#)

## **Additional Media Coverage**

#### **May 14 WBAL News Radio 1090: 2018 Greater Baltimore State of the Region Report**

Two decades since the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council first released its State of the Region report, plenty has changed. The region is more diverse, younger and better educated than it was, compared to its peers. However, the city itself has lost population, downtown vacancies are up and cost of living has shot up compared to similarly sized cities. [Listen to the interview.](#)

#### **May 14 The Baltimore Sun: 2018 Greater Baltimore State of the Region Report**

The Baltimore region has become more diverse and educated in the past two decades and the economy is more driven by technology, medicine, higher education and professional services. Those are the findings of a report to be released Monday night by the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council at the GBC's 63rd Annual Meeting. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 14 The Daily Record: 2018 Greater Baltimore State of the Region Report**

The Baltimore region has grown more affluent, educated and diverse over the past 20 years as its focus has changed from manufacturing to higher education, medicine, cybersecurity and technology, according to a new report. But the report, released Monday, also raised questions about how the region's growth and change will interact with that diversity. The 2018 Greater Baltimore State of the Region Report from the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council looked at how the region performed in more than 80 statistical indicators and how that performance has changed since 1998, when the report was first published. The report also compared how the Baltimore region stacks up to 19 other peer regions, including Washington, Austin, Boston and Dallas. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 14 Technical.ly Baltimore: 2018 Greater Baltimore State of the Region Report**

Compared to 20 years ago, the Baltimore area has a more diverse population and an economy that is more driven by tech, medicine and higher education. That's according to a new report being released Monday by the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. It's scheduled to be presented tonight at the GBC's Annual Meeting.

The report includes demographic and economic data for the Baltimore region. Along with comparing differences between 1998 and 2017, it also shows how the area ranks when compared to 20 similar regions around the country. [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 10 Baltimore Business Journal: Kevin Kamenetz**

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said he knew Kamenetz for more than 30 years through political circles and called him a "dedicated public servant, committed to Baltimore County and its citizens, and a consummate political leader." "He was a steadfast supporter of business and a great regional partner," Fry said. "The Greater Baltimore Committee enjoyed his support on a number of projects including the Red Line and his leadership on the redevelopment of Sparrows Point." [Read the article.](#)

#### **May 10 The Daily Record: Kevin Kamenetz**

Business and political leaders in the region sent condolences to Kamenetz's friends and family, and expressed their respect for him as a partner in bringing economic growth to the region. "He was a steadfast supporter of business and a great regional partner. The Greater Baltimore Committee enjoyed his support on a number of projects including the Red Line and his leadership on the redevelopment of Sparrows Point," Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said in a statement. "He leaves behind an impressive record of accomplishments and an impactful legacy." [Read the article.](#)

Visit Our Website

CONNECT



Greater Baltimore Committee | 410-727-2820 | [www.gbc.org](http://www.gbc.org)  
111 S. Calvert Street, Suite 1700  
Baltimore, MD 21202