



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

GBC In The News: June - August 2018

Media highlights of the GBC in June, July and August.

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* and *The Daily Record*, on WBAL News Radio 1090 and in 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 'Dm Fry', written in a cursive style.

Donald C. Fry
President & CEO

JUNE 2018

Don Fry Commentaries

June 14 The Daily Record: Preakness

The Preakness needs and deserves a modern, premier destination venue that generates a high-level of enthusiastic national news coverage, provides superior guest experiences and showcases Baltimore to the world in the best light possible. Unfortunately, in its current state, Pimlico Race Course falls short of that goal. [Read the commentary.](#)

June 5 WBAL News Radio 1090: 2018 Greater Baltimore State of the Region Report

A recently released report by the Greater Baltimore Committee and Baltimore Metropolitan Council provides a captivating snapshot of the Baltimore region today compared to 20 years ago. The 2018 Greater Baltimore State of the Region Report found that the region is more ethnically diverse, better educated and wealthier than in 1998. Here are just a few findings which compared the Baltimore region to 19 comparable regions across the country: Baltimore led its peers in Hispanic population growth and experienced the fourth-highest percentage gain in black population; more than 37 percent of the region's population 25 and older had a college education in 2017, up from 25 percent in 1998; and median household income doubled to \$76,788 - the third-highest growth rate. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

GBC Events

June 21 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast with Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh was emotional as he described his thoughts about the separation of families attempting to enter the United States illegally. "This has been a very dark time in our country," Frosh told a room of business leaders at a Greater Baltimore Committee breakfast event on Thursday. He said he could not "think of anything worse" than the "zero-tolerance" policy enacted by President Donald Trump's administration that led to children being taken away from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border. [Read the article.](#)

June 20 The Daily Record: Newsmaker Breakfast with Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh

Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh on Wednesday defended as apolitical efforts to protect Marylanders his office's legal challenges to President Trump's restrictions on immigration from majority-Muslim countries, the marketing of the president's Washington hotel and his administration's rollback of regulations designed to protect the environment. "We stand up for important public policies," Frosh said at a Greater Baltimore Committee breakfast. "We are going to fight for justice." [Read the article.](#)

June 3 The Baltimore Sun: GBC Board of Directors Chairman Paul Tiburzi

I was recently honored to be elected Chair of the Greater Baltimore Committee, a role I accept with enthusiasm and optimism, GBC Board of Directors Chair Paul Tiburzi writes in a Baltimore Sun op/ed. Baltimore should be - and can be - the greatest, safest city in America. As the 33rd Chair of the GBC, I will be active, vocal and aggressive in working to make that happen.

Since 1955, the GBC has made Baltimore a better place to live and work. The GBC has always been very special to me. I always understood and appreciated the dual meanings of "greater" Baltimore: the greater Baltimore region and working to make the Baltimore region greater. [Read the op/ed.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

June 18 Baltimore Business Journal: BaltimoreLink

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, has long been an advocate for improving the region's public transportation. He said an update to the system was needed in order to improve connectivity and efficiency, but it "has not been a transformative transportation project for the city or region."

"The reality is you can't replace a visionary \$3 billion mass transit project - the Red Line - with a \$150 million bus project and hope to get a new, highly interconnected public transit system for a thriving major urban region," Fry said. "Baltimore still needs and deserves a transportation game-changer that rapidly and efficiently provides mobility, especially those living in disconnected or transit-dependent neighborhoods, to current and emerging job hubs to ensure that Baltimore is highly competitive and attractive for employers and employees alike." [Read the article.](#)

June 18 The Baltimore Sun: 2018 Greater Baltimore State of the Region Report

As the overall population and the number of jobs have increased in the last 20 years, the region's average commute time has grown five minutes longer, according to a report by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and Greater Baltimore Committee. [Read the article.](#)

June 5 Baltimore Business Journal: Baltimore Convention Center

The Greater Baltimore Committee has also been pushing for an updated convention center. In a speech at the organization's Annual Meeting, Chairman Paul Tiburzi said the convention center was one of the "key priorities" for the GBC and Mayor Catherine Pugh.

"Tourism, conventions and special events bring significant visitor activity and are a driver of the city, regional and state economy," Tiburzi said. "But they cannot flourish and stay competitive with peer cities such as Philadelphia, Charlotte and Washington, D.C., without modern facilities. It is time that we invest in these two important economic development venues." [Read the article.](#)

JULY 2018

Don Fry Commentaries

July 19 The Daily Record: Selecting a Lieutenant Governor

Allowing gubernatorial candidates to select their running mates after the primary would require the passage of a constitutional amendment by the state legislature and ratification by the voters. While it is too late to consider such a policy change for the 2018 election cycle, changing the timing of the selection of the lieutenant governor candidates in the future would be a positive step to ensure a more effective and stable state government. [Read the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

July 19 The Baltimore Sun: The Red Line

The Trump administration has shown less interest in local transit than the Obama administration. "The Trump administration has said they'd like to see the states or local governments pick up a bigger share of transit," said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. The organization was a vocal backer of the Red Line. [Read the article.](#)

July 9 The Baltimore Sun: Convention Center Expansion

Don Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said the convention center had slipped in national rankings since the last expansion in 1996. "Convention business is flourishing across the country and if you want to be part of that destination, you have to remain competitive," he said. [Read the article.](#)

AUGUST 2018

Don Fry Commentaries

August 23 The Daily Record: Goodbye bike share, hello Bird and Lime

The city needs innovators like Bird and Lime to succeed - not so Baltimore can brag that it has these cool, new mobility options, but rather because innovative transportation alternatives are needed to access traditional transit modes, such a bus and trains, thus helping form a more interconnected multi-model system. This will help fuel job access and growth in the city and the region. An innovative and interconnected transportation system is fundamental for the city's future economy and would strengthen Baltimore's business climate. [Read the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

August 9 Baltimore Business Journal: "Stop Apologizing, Baltimore" Series

As Baltimore's image continues to boomerang in the national and local media, what's the best way to keep the dial on the bright side? Write it yourself. The Greater Baltimore Committee last year hired Julie Scharper, a former city hall reporter for The Baltimore Sun, to promote some of the goings-on in the city that otherwise get ignored by the daily grind. [Read the article.](#)

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