



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

GBC In The News: September - November 2018

Media highlights of the GBC in September, October and November.

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 'Don Fry', is positioned above the printed name.

Donald C. Fry
President & CEO

SEPTEMBER 2018

Don Fry Commentaries

September 20 The Daily Record: Baltimore Convention Center

The recent news that a major health and wellness convention has decided to relocate from Baltimore to Philadelphia because the city's convention center can't handle its growing attendance is the latest alarm bell that expansion of the Baltimore Convention Center is desperately needed. If the state and city intend to keep the convention and tourism business as a major economic engine it will require investment to remain competitive. City and state leaders must fully support and commit to funding this vital and overdue project. Only then will Maryland be able to compete in the convention business. [Read the commentary.](#)

September 10 WBAL News Radio 1090: Baltimore Convention Center

The organizers of the Natural Products Expo East say they love Baltimore. But they've decided to move after 20 years to Philadelphia. Why? The expo is growing and the Baltimore Convention Center isn't large enough to allow for more growth. It's the latest blow to Baltimore's vital convention center business. Other events also have moved to cities with larger centers. These losses serve as a warning that an expanded Baltimore Convention Center is badly needed. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

GBC Events

September 13 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC's Economic Outlook Conference

When people talk about artificial intelligence and robots, often the conversation turns to how machines are going to take away all of the jobs that people have been doing. Machines are not going to take away human jobs, Allison Horn, a Managing Director at Accenture, told a room full of business leaders on Thursday. Rather, she said people and machines will have to work together to create new "customer experiences" that will result in different types of jobs being available. [Read the article.](#)

September 13 The Daily Record: GBC's Economic Outlook Conference

"There will be work. There just needs to be people who know how to do it," Robert Caret, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, said. "I just don't know what happens to the people in the gap (between needed skills and available jobs)." Experts in education, economics and business spoke about those issues during the Greater Baltimore Committee's Economic Outlook Conference: The Future of Work, on Thursday morning. [Read the article.](#)

September 6 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast with Community College Presidents

Dawn Lindsay, President of Anne Arundel Community College, was among the panelists at an event Wednesday morning hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee that focused on the role community colleges play in the local economy. [Read the article.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

September 27 The Daily Record: Affordable Housing

Donald C. Fry, Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO, supported the legislation's goals in his written testimony. His support, however, is predicated on the adoption of amendments grandfathering in projects with permits, and attaching a sunset clause to the tax increases. Fry criticized the process for reviewing the bill, citing the legislative deal between Mayor Catherine Pugh's administration and housing activists that was announced before the hearing. "While the GBC supports efforts to increase affordable housing, it is important to note that the legislative process by which this legislation has proceeded lacks transparency, openness and fails to meet acceptable standards of a fair process," Fry wrote. "The passage of any legislation in this fashion should be a concern to individuals who live in or conduct business with the City of Baltimore." [Read the article.](#)

September 17 The Baltimore Sun: Speed limits in Baltimore City

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, a group of business and civic leaders in the region, said making downtown areas with the highest volumes of traffic safe for pedestrians was critical.

"We're certainly concerned about public safety for pedestrians, as well as people operating motor vehicles and want to be supportive of whatever reasonable steps can be taken to reduce accidents and injury," Fry said.

But Fry said the group would need more time to analyze the bill - which streets it would affect, and how - before supporting or opposing it. [Read the article.](#)

OCTOBER 2018

Don Fry Commentaries

October 5 WBAL News Radio 1090: Maryland Business Climate Survey

A survey of Maryland's businesses found that a growing number of business executives see sunny skies for the state's economy. But the skies are cloudy as they seek more skilled

workers and move about the state's transportation infrastructure.

The survey, conducted by the University of Baltimore's Jacob France Institute, found that 46 percent surveyed had a positive view of the business climate- a welcome increase from 30 percent in 2011.

The outlook for job hiring is also strong - 46 percent - say they expect to increase hiring in the next year. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

GBC Events

October 17 The Daily Record: Newsmaker Breakfast with United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert Hur

Since his appointment as the top federal law enforcement officer in Maryland, U.S. Attorney Robert K. Hur has been looking at ways to point federal resources toward two problems affecting Baltimore and surrounding regions: violent crime and opioids.

"In my mind, the violent crime problem and the opioid problem and inextricably intertwined," Hur told members of the business and legal community Wednesday at a breakfast hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee. [Read the article.](#)

October 17 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast with United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert Hur

U.S. Attorney Robert K. Hur is eyeing new initiatives including a partnership with Johns Hopkins University as part of his vision to reduce violent crime in Baltimore City. Speaking at a Greater Baltimore Committee breakfast event a day after 11 people were shot in the city, Hur told business leaders at a Greater Baltimore Committee breakfast event Wednesday that his office is working with city and federal law enforcement agencies to reduce crime. He said his top goal is to reduce homicides and deaths so people feel safe. [Read the article.](#)

October 15 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC Transportation Summit

Michelle Pourciau called Baltimore a "city in crisis" - but she wasn't talking about crime. The city's transportation director said there was no comprehensive transportation plan in place when she was appointed to the position in June 2017. More than a year later, Pourciau said the city still remains without a plan but hopes to have one in place in the next year. Pourciau was one of four panelists who participated in the Greater Baltimore Committee's Transportation Summit last week. The other panelists were John Bennett, an Engineer representing the American Society of Civil Engineers; Fred Miller, General Counsel of the U.S. House's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; and Kevin Thompson, a Director at Transportation For America. [Read the article.](#)

October 11 The Daily Record: GBC Transportation Summit

Michelle Pourciau said before she became Director of Baltimore's Department of Transportation a year ago that the city didn't have a comprehensive transportation plan. There's now a baseline for a report in place, she said, during the Greater Baltimore Committee's Transportation Summit on Thursday. But city transportation still faces major challenges. [Read the article.](#)

October 2 The Daily Record: Opioid Abuse Forum

As employers are increasingly drawn into the opioid crisis, they need to draft clear workplace drug policies, educate their workers on the dangers of addiction and work closely with insurers and pharmacy benefit plans to spot and prevent potential problems, experts said Tuesday.

A panel of government, industry, health and workplace leaders at a forum at the University of Maryland BioPark provided some good news about the crisis, even amid a litany of sobering statistics and cautionary tales.

"This crisis is particularly complicated," Clay Stamp, Executive Director of Maryland's Opioid Operational Command Center, said at the Greater Baltimore Committee-sponsored event. He noted the stigma of opioid addiction and its twin sources of prescription abuse and illicit drug sales were a powerful combination. [Read the article.](#)

October 2 Baltimore Business Journal: Opioid Abuse Forum

It wasn't until lawmakers, health care officials, insurers, employers and everyday citizens all came together in a coordinated effort to combat the health crisis of smoking in America that the number related-deaths began to decline.

Clay Stamp, Executive Director of the state's Opioid Operational Command Center, said communities across the U.S. are now facing a similar - if not far more dire - task in battling the

opioid crisis.

"We've put a lot of things in place in the last 20 months...and headway is being made. But we've still got a long way to go," Stamp said during a panel discussion hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee on Tuesday. The event was intended to help employers and stakeholders better understand how opioid use can be addressed in Maryland workplaces. [Read the article.](#)

NOVEMBER 2018

Don Fry Commentaries

November 16 The Daily Record: Redistricting Reform

With the 2018 election in the books and the 2020 census ahead, Maryland political leaders have the opportunity to lead by example on the contentious issue of gerrymandering. It's time to get on board and adopt an independent nonpartisan redistricting process that puts voters, not politicians, first. [Read the commentary.](#)

November 5 WBAL News Radio 1090: Lt. Governor

Here in the Old Line State, our gubernatorial candidates must announce their running mates prior to the primary election. However, a strong argument can be made that the selection of running mates should be made after the primary. That is the process in a number of other states. Also, our Presidential candidates do not officially select their Vice Presidential running mate until after they have secured the nomination for the top slot.

Allowing each party's nominee for Governor to select their running mate after the primary election would cast a broader net of potential running mates. A party's nominee might even select a highly qualified and experienced candidate who unsuccessfully ran in the gubernatorial primary election. A constitutional amendment and voter ratification would be required to set up such a process in Maryland. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

GBC Events

November 14 Baltimore Snap: 15th Annual Bridging the Gap Achievement Awards

Check out Baltimore Snap's coverage of the GBC's 15th Annual Bridging the Gap Achievement Awards on November 14. [View the photos.](#)

November 5 The Daily Record: Newsmaker Breakfast

Consent Decree Monitor Kenneth L. Thompson stressed the importance for Baltimore to find a permanent police commissioner in order to implement changes required by the decree, he told a room of members of the region's business community at a breakfast hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee on Monday. [Read the article.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

November 29 Baltimore Business Journal: Martin Millspaugh

"He was a dedicated cheerleader for the city and enjoyed telling the story of the harbor's transformation to other waterfront cities in the U.S. and throughout the world," said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. [Read the article.](#)

November 23 The Baltimore Sun: #bWomen

Christine Aspell and several others with the Greater Baltimore Committee, an entity composed of more than 500 Baltimore businesses, set out last year to design programming that could help women maneuver through the obstacles that might hold them back. The result was the creation of the 25-person Baltimore Women's Advisory Board, which has scheduled its first panel discussion for GBC members Monday. [Read the article.](#)

November 20 Baltimore Business Journal: Baltimore's Crime Plan

"The almost daily reports of violent crime threatens the city's growth and its economy," said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. "It is imperative that law enforcement and elected leaders heed the call from citizens and businesses alike and act, with a sense of urgency, to make rapid and measurable progress to address the crime and violence."

Fry said the GBC and the city's business community "remain deeply concerned about the level of violence and homicides in Baltimore."

"The criminal conduct of a few causes enormous tragedy and grief to families throughout the city," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

November 13 Baltimore Business Journal: Amazon HQ2

Don Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said the region would benefit mainly because of its affordability and abundance of colleges and universities that will serve as an employment pipeline. One focus should be improving transportation options between Washington and Baltimore, he added. "The Baltimore region offers a much more affordable cost of living than Northern Virginia so housing could see a boost," Fry said. "The Greater Baltimore Committee will work to ensure that the Baltimore region explores opportunities to leverage Amazon's new headquarters. A clear focus should be the need for better rapid and efficient transportation connections." [Read the article.](#)

November 13 The Baltimore Sun: Amazon HQ2

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, pointed to the Baltimore region's pipeline of highly educated graduates who could be hired by Amazon, making their universities more attractive to prospective students. He agreed that the area's tech companies and universities would be natural partners for Amazon's HQ2. "The Greater Baltimore Committee will work to ensure the Baltimore region explores opportunities to leverage Amazon's new headquarters," Fry said in a statement. "A clear focus should be the need for better rapid and efficient transportation connections between the Baltimore and Washington regions." [Read the article.](#)

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Greater Baltimore Committee | 410-727-2820 | www.gbc.org
111 S. Calvert Street, Suite 1700
Baltimore, MD 21202