



## GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

# GBC In The News: December 2018 - January 2019

*Media highlights of the GBC in 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 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", written in a cursive style.

Donald C. Fry  
President & CEO

## DECEMBER 2018

### Don Fry Commentaries

#### **December 17 WBAL News Radio 1090: Transit Access**

What bold transportation projects must we get behind now to ensure that workers across the city and region can more easily access these emerging job centers?

It goes without saying that any proposal must link these future economic engines with the transit dependent communities in East and West Baltimore. Easy access to jobs at these major employment hubs would greatly benefit those who live in disadvantaged areas and propel them toward economic stability.

Providing easy access to these employment centers would likely be as economically transformational for those who live in underserved transit areas as the economic hubs themselves. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

**December 14 The Baltimore Sun: Tradepoint Atlantic**

A proposal before the Baltimore County Council that will provide for the expedited construction of infrastructure at Tradepoint Atlantic, the former site of the old Bethlehem Steel plant in Sparrows Point, is a prime example of private industry collaborating with government to devise a sensible solution to a thorny issue.

Elected officials have the opportunity to ensure that Tradepoint Atlantic can fulfill its promise to become one of the major economic engines in Baltimore County, fueling economic growth and job creation in the region for decades to come. [Read the op/ed.](#)

**Additional Media Coverage****December 17 The Daily Record: GBC receives PRSA Maryland Chapter Award**

Business advocacy group the Greater Baltimore Committee received an award at the 2018 Public Relations Society's Best in Maryland Awards gala.

The GBC was given an Award of Excellence in the Editorial/Op-Ed/Story Placement category for its entry, "Private Sector Solutions, Public Sector Challenges," during a ceremony December 11. The award recognized the GBC for op-ed columns and commentaries published and broadcast by Baltimore area media outlets that highlighted solutions proposed and supported by the GBC and other private-sector organizations to address complex public challenges in the Baltimore region. [Read the article.](#)

**JANUARY 2019****Don Fry Commentaries****January 18 The Daily Record: Baltimore's CitiWatch Operations Center**

More funding and manpower for the CitiWatch Operations Center may also be needed, especially as Baltimore hires more officers to beef up its depleted ranks to provide more hands on deck to interact with CitiWatch. Ensuring Baltimore's law enforcement can keep an edge in technology is not only prudent but must remain a high priority for city leaders. [Read the commentary.](#)

**January 11 WBAL News Radio 1090: Public Safety**

Combined, Governor Hogan's announcement of a number of new programs, including the creation of a strike force, comprised of 200 federal and state law enforcement officers targeting gangs in Baltimore and the expansion of Project Exile, a program in which serious criminal cases are prosecuted in federal court rather than state courts, and the Mayor's nomination of Chief Harrison provide much needed wind in Baltimore's sails as it works to reduce homicides and other violent crime. Business and community leaders as well as city residents should be prepared to support Chief Harrison and the Governor's plan. Collectively, we must lend our voices to lift the cloud of violent crime that's been holding Baltimore back. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

**GBC Events****January 29 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC Legislative Forum**

More than 250 business leaders gathered Monday morning to hear about the biggest issues facing the General Assembly, but a couple of Maryland state senators stole the show with their comments about the crime situation in Baltimore. Senator Bill Ferguson and Senator J.B. Jennings spoke candidly at the Greater Baltimore Committee's legislative forum about their frustration with the continued high level of violence in the city and what they perceive as a lack of leadership. [Read the article.](#)

**January 29 The Daily Record: GBC Legislative Forum**

A state senator from Baltimore City is calling on business leaders to come to the aid of a jurisdiction plagued by violence and government dysfunction.

"If you want to reform a great American city, dig in in Baltimore," said Senator William "Bill" Ferguson during comments Monday to members of the Greater Baltimore Committee. "This is

the time. This is the place to make a difference. You coming out today is the first step. [Read the article.](#)

## **Additional Media Coverage**

### **January 15 Baltimore Business Journal: Minimum Wage**

The Greater Baltimore Committee has also expressed support for raising the statewide minimum, with certain conditions. Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the GBC, said lawmakers should make changes to the definition of small businesses and size to allow for carve-outs. He also said the bill should not give tipped workers a \$15 wage. "It would be detrimental for the restaurant industry," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

### **January 11 Baltimore Business Journal: Amazon HQ2**

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said he could not point to one specific issue and said he thought the state made a "major play." He said the state should continue to look at improving issues like taxation, workforce development and transportation.

"The reality is sometimes you're not going to know because the back rooms are where these decisions are made," Fry said.

Specifically to Baltimore's bid to bring HQ2 to Port Covington, Fry said leaders were able to figure out the city's assets and weaknesses. For the state, he said the HQ2 process showed a willingness by state officials to "take a step forward."

"It was one of the boldest things we've seen put forth by the state in decades," Fry said. [Read the article.](#)

### **January 9 Baltimore Business Journal: Maryland General Assembly**

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said he supports the governor's crime initiatives.

"It's a great effort," Fry said. "If we're going to overcome the public safety challenges we have it is important we have a true partnership with the state, federal and local government. I'm glad to see them taking steps." [Read the article.](#)

### **January 8 Baltimore Business Journal: New Baltimore Police Commissioner**

Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald C. Fry, said he and the business community are "pleased" that Pugh was able to name a new candidate quickly. Fry spoke out Monday after Fitzgerald had withdrawn his name to encourage the mayor to "move with all due speed."

Fry said in a statement that he met Harrison on a recent site visit to New Orleans.

"I was impressed by his accomplishments in bringing about transformational change, increasing technology, establishing relationships in the community, managing a consent decree, reducing homicides, and being a respected leader within the police force." [Read the article.](#)

### **January 7 Baltimore Business Journal: New Baltimore Police Commissioner**

Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald C. Fry said he expects the mayor to move with "all due speed" to restore stable leadership at the top of the Baltimore City Police Department. Fry said the nonprofit GBC board is committed to lending support and advice to the Pugh administration and the City Council as the search for a new police commissioner begins anew.

"With this latest turn of events it is incumbent upon Mayor Pugh to move with all due speed in selecting and presenting a new candidate. The city needs competent and stable leadership to address the public safety challenges facing the city of Baltimore," Fry said late Monday. [Read the article.](#)

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