



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

GBC In The News: February - April 2019

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

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

February 2019

Don Fry Commentaries

February 21 The Daily Record: The Midsession Business Report from Annapolis

It is the midway point for the annual 90-day session of the Maryland General Assembly and with that milestone a number of pressing business and employment related issues have emerged as topics of spirited discussion among state legislators. Take a look at the status of pending legislative proposals as we head into the home stretch of this year's legislative session. [Read the article.](#)

February 7 WBAL News Radio 1090: Legislative Proposals to Fight Violent Crime

Governor Larry Hogan has called on the Maryland General Assembly to enact two new legislative proposals to address violent crime. Both proposals have merit and should be strongly supported by state legislators and private-sector leaders. If passed these two

initiatives are sure to add momentum to the other efforts to end the scourge of violent crime in Baltimore - and make it a safer place for all. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

February 27 Baltimore Business Journal: Preakness Stakes

Pugh's office, the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore each sent out notices calling on community members, business owners and advocates to "save the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico." The fliers, sent out in emails and posted on social media, warn that passage of the Stronach-backed bill will "effectively make running the Preakness at Pimlico impossible in the future and cause the Preakness to move to Laurel." [Read the article.](#)

February 26 The Baltimore Sun: Preakness Stakes

Don Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, called the lack of attention to the 149-year-old track that is home to the Preakness Stakes "a deliberate effort to disinvest in what has been an iconic and strong tradition, truly ignoring what could be a catalyst for redevelopment of a challenged community." [Read the article.](#)

February 25 Baltimore Business Journal: Baltimore Police Department Acting Commissioner Michael Harrison

Harrison spent the first 13-plus minutes of the GBC event sharing his story about how he ascended the ranks of the New Orleans Police Department to become its superintendent. During his career there he helped "get rid of the bad apples" in the department and as superintendent helped the city reduce crime. New Orleans had 146 murders in 2018, the lowest total since 1971. [Read the article.](#)

February 25 The Baltimore Sun: Baltimore Police Department Acting Commissioner Michael Harrison

After two weeks on the job, with many of his days spent meeting officers at roll call and nights hearing from residents at a series of nine community meetings, Harrison said Baltimore requires "an entire paradigm shift." Monday morning's meeting was hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee. Members expressed concern about crime downtown and other issues such as panhandling. [Read the article.](#)

February 25 The Daily Record: Baltimore Police Department Acting Commissioner Michael Harrison

Acting Commissioner Michael Harrison told members of the Greater Baltimore Committee that he believes the "pieces," or community entities, that allowed him to reform the New Orleans Police Department exist in Baltimore and that "the brightest days are in front of us." [Read the article.](#)

February 11 The Daily Record: Baltimore Police Department Acting Commissioner Michael Harrison

Business leaders and elected officials embraced Harrison's nomination. When Harrison was announced as the mayor's choice Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Don Fry said he and organization members were "very pleased" with the choice. [Read the article.](#)

February 11 Baltimore Business Journal: Baltimore Police Department Acting Commissioner Michael Harrison

In fact, interest in meeting the former New Orleans police superintendent is so great that the Greater Baltimore Committee sold out its upcoming event where Harrison will be the main speaker.

GBC President and CEO Donald C. Fry said the business advocacy group sold about 60 tickets in four days, weeks ahead of the February 25 event. The GBC has since expanded the event to allow more of its member companies to register, and if interest continues, Fry said they will look for a larger venue.

The business community is looking for the new commissioner to display "stability and leadership," Fry said. Those traits, plus the ability to execute a plan and strong communication skills are what many say Harrison will need to succeed and bring crime rates down.

Public safety is the No. 1 concern among business owners in Baltimore, he said. [Read the article.](#)

February 6 Baltimore Business Journal: Pimlico Race Course

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said in a statement the bill is a "vehicle for discussion" and is a "good step forward" for the project. "The Greater Baltimore Committee is very supportive of efforts to ensure the Preakness continues to be run at Pimlico Race Course," Fry said. "The Maryland Stadium Authority's proposal that would develop a year-around venue would be a strong economic catalyst for the surrounding nearby communities, the region and the state." [Read the article.](#)

March 2019

Don Fry Commentaries

March 22 The Daily Record: Reducing Violent Crime in Baltimore

Providing for the protection of the public must always remain a top priority of government. In future legislative sessions a best practice for elected state officials is to work together and agree on a unified, coordinated crime strategy that incorporates a mix of immediate crime fighting measures and long-term crime prevention proposals. Such an approach is likely to yield short- and long-term benefits that all sides can be proud of and applauded broadly. [Read the commentary.](#)

March 12 WBAL News Radio 1090: Baltimore Police Department Commissioner Michael Harrison

The Baltimore City Council has confirmed Michael Harrison as the Baltimore Police Department's police commissioner. With his confirmation, Baltimore seems poised to enter a new era when it comes to crime, the reputation of the police department and the city itself. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

March 11 Baltimore Business Journal: 5G Technology

Chang's organization, the Wireless Infrastructure Association, represents many of the companies involved in the effort to fix that connectivity problem. Wireless providers are looking to install new technologies across the country aimed at relieving some of the data traffic pressure on cell towers. Chang spoke during a panel event at the Greater Baltimore Committee on Monday, pointing out that 22 states have already passed legislation enabling and regulating these installations - called "small cells" - including nearby Virginia and Delaware. [Read the article.](#)

March 11 The Daily Record: 5G Technology

Rothrock was one of three wireless industry government affairs professionals to address the Greater Baltimore Committee's 5G and The Future of Wireless Connectivity, Innovation and Investment Breakfast Briefing. [Read the article.](#)

March 6 Baltimore Business Journal: Pimlico

Other supporters included Michael Gaines, Executive Pastor of Manna Bible Baptist Church; Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee; and Howard Libit, Executive Director of the Baltimore Jewish Council. Delegate Tony Bridges and Martha Nathanson, an executive at LifeBidge Health which owns the nearby Sinai Hospital, also offered support for keeping the second jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown in Baltimore. [Read the article.](#)

March 1 Baltimore Business Journal: Pimlico

Fry, from the Greater Baltimore Committee, said he and the group's members support forming a workgroup because not enough time has been given to fully consider the redevelopment and figure out possible financing approaches. [Read the article.](#)

March 1 Baltimore Business Journal: Pimlico

The other bill, backed by Mayor Catherine Pugh and city leaders including Baltimore Development Corporation President and CEO William H. Cole IV and Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Don Fry would create a workgroup tasked with looking into ways to finance a \$424 million redevelopment of the track, outlined in a study released in

December by the Maryland Stadium Authority. Pugh called on city residents this week to go to Annapolis and testify in support of the measure. [Read the article.](#)

April 2019

Don Fry Commentaries

April 29 WBAL News Radio 1090: Baltimore City Government Reform

Safeguards are needed to ensure that the city's residents and reputation are spared from another painful debacle like the one unfolding now. Change that improves the operation of government and better serves the citizens is appropriate. But exercising the right degree of thoughtful and deliberative change is the best approach to ensure a stable, responsive and productive city government. [Listen to the commentary.](#)

April 18 The Daily Record: 5G Technology

With the 2019 Maryland General Assembly session completed and 5G legislation on hold once again, the parties responsible for finding a suitable resolution will be on the hot seat. Will they find common ground to propose legislation in 2020 that will pave the way for the deployment of 5G networks in Maryland and in doing so attract the new investment in wireless infrastructure, increased entrepreneurial activity and additional jobs? Or will they let Maryland become yet another example of the fast innovators outpacing the glacial regulators? [Read the commentary.](#)

GBC Events

April 9 Baltimore Business Journal: Newsmaker Breakfast with Councilman Eric Costello

City Councilman Eric Costello visited the Greater Baltimore Committee Tuesday morning to discuss the city budget process with local business leaders. But unsurprisingly, he ended up facing questions about the turmoil surrounding Mayor Catherine Pugh and questionable deals she made both as mayor and previously a state senator. [Read the article.](#)

April 9 The Daily Record: Newsmaker Breakfast with Councilman Eric Costello

"No charter amendments are going to get a hearing until next summer. We don't need to be distracted by that. We've got enough work on our hands right now," Costello said in response to an audience members question at the Greater Baltimore Committee's Newsmaker Breakfast on Tuesday. [Read the article.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

April 26 The Washington Post: Baltimore's image

First, by many measures, our city and region are thriving. The Baltimore area is home to more than a dozen institutions of higher education. Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, Baltimore bring billions of federal research dollars to the city. In fact, Johns Hopkins leads all U.S. universities in research spending for the 38th year in a row. And Baltimore is a global hub for medicine, biotech and cybersecurity. University of Maryland, Baltimore County has graduated more African American students who have gone on to earn advanced degrees than any other college in the country. Want to know more about our vibrant economic landscape? Just take a look at the Greater Baltimore Committee's 2018 State of the Region Report. [Read the article.](#)

April 12 The Baltimore Sun: GBC Board of Directors calls on Mayor Pugh to Resign

The Greater Baltimore Committee issued a call Friday for Mayor Catherine Pugh to resign, a repudiation of her leadership by the influential group of business and civic leaders who say she no longer has "public trust or moral authority." [Read the article.](#)

April 12 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC Board of Directors calls on Mayor Pugh to Resign

The Greater Baltimore Committee's Board of Directors is calling on Mayor Catherine Pugh to resign, joining a chorus of public officials requesting she leave office amid an ongoing scandal over her business dealings. [Read the article.](#)

April 12 Baltimore Fishbowl: GBC Board of Directors calls on Mayor Pugh to Resign

A few days after city council members and state lawmakers publicly urged Mayor Catherine Pugh to resign, an organization made up of prominent businesspeople, religious leaders and others from around Baltimore has joined the call. The Greater Baltimore Committee announced this afternoon that its Board of Directors has voted to ask Pugh to make an exit from city government. [Read the article.](#)

April 12 The Daily Record: GBC Board of Directors calls on Mayor Pugh to Resign

The Greater Baltimore Committee, a prominent regional business advocacy group, on Friday joined calls for Mayor Catherine Pugh to resign. Its Board of Directors called on Pugh to step down, adding its voice to others, including the Baltimore City Council. Pugh has been accused of ethical violations stemming from the sale of her self-published children's books. [Read the article.](#)

April 12 Fox 45: GBC Board of Directors calls on Mayor Pugh to Resign

Friday, the Greater Baltimore Committee's Board of Directors called on Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh to resign. The Board acknowledged Mayor Pugh's current leave of absence for health reasons and expressed its best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery. [Read the article.](#)

April 12 WBAL News Radio 1090: GBC Board of Directors calls on Mayor Pugh to Resign

The Board of Directors of the Greater Baltimore Committee voted Friday to call on Mayor Catherine Pugh to resign. [Listen to the story.](#)

April 12 WBAL TV 11: GBC Board of Directors calls on Mayor Pugh to Resign

The Greater Baltimore Committee's Board of Directors is calling on Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh to resign. This is significant because the mayor has now lost the confidence of the business community. In an unprecedented move, the GBC, which represents 500 business and civil groups and nonprofits, is calling on Pugh to resign. [Watch the coverage.](#)

April 12 WJZ: GBC Board of Directors calls on Mayor Pugh to Resign

The Greater Baltimore Committee's Board of Directors called for the resignation of Mayor Catherine Pugh Friday. "The Board acknowledges Mayor Pugh's current leave of absence for health reasons and expressed its best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery," the GBC board said in a statement. "After considerable discussion and thought, the Board determined that Mayor Pugh no longer possesses the public trust or moral authority to lead the city due to concerns regarding the activities that have come to light while she served as a State Senator and as Mayor of the city." [Watch the coverage.](#)

April 7 The Daily Record: House Speaker Michael Busch

Busch possessed leadership qualities that are rarely found today, said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. "He was respectful of legislators and advocates with divergent political philosophies and always made them feel that they had a fair chance to express their views," Fry said. "He was always mindful of the importance of the General Assembly as an institution and the importance of maintaining the integrity of the body. Those traits explain how he became the longest-serving speaker of the House in Maryland's history." [Read the article.](#)

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