

November 11, 2019



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

GBC in the News: June-October 2019

2019 GBC Media Highlights

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

June 2019

Don Fry Commentaries

June 28 The Daily Record: New solutions needed to end "Culture of Violence" in Baltimore

As of June 26, there were 152 homicides in the city, compared to 133 at the same time last year, according to Baltimore City Police Department data, an increase of 14 percent. If the pace continues the city will regrettably book more than 300 murders for another consecutive year dating back to 2015.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

June 25 Baltimore Business Journal: Harborplace receiver's 'sole focus' is to make it safe, attractive, GBC's Fry says

A top business leader says the short-term goals for Harborplace are to boost its image, clean it up and make it inviting for the summertime tourist season. Those goals have been set forth by the court-appointed receiver for the 39-year-old Inner Harbor property, said Donald C. Fry, CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee.

[Read the article.](#)

June 26 The Baltimore Sun: Reimagining Harborplace: What do people want from Baltimore's iconic waterfront?

The two low-slung pavilions filled with shops and restaurants were considered visionary when the Rouse Co. built them on parkland along Baltimore's Inner Harbor nearly four decades ago. But over the years, Harborplace lost its luster and financial footing. Now there's a debate about what should be done with the waterfront.

[Read the article.](#)

July 2019

Don Fry Commentaries

July 25 The Daily Record: All hands on deck in Baltimore

As the drumbeat of daily news reminds us, Baltimore continues to see high rates of violent crime for yet another year, especially shootings and homicides.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

July 11 The Daily Record: Expert: Baltimore Crime fight offers chance for substantial ROI

Financing a targeted approach to reducing violent crime in Baltimore could create a return on investment of \$135 for every dollar of backing, according to the author of a new book on urban brutality.

[Read the article.](#)

July 22 Baltimore Business Journal: Harborplace receiver's report details troubles, first steps to turnaround

A five-year comparative sales analysis showed some of Harborplace's longest-tenured tenants saw their sales decline as construction work on renovations stalled over the past few years.

[Read the article.](#)

July 23 Feds award long-sought grant to help expand Baltimore's Howard Street Tunnel but not as much as Maryland wanted

Maryland will receive \$125 million in long-sought federal funding to expand the Howard Street Tunnel under downtown — a project that would eliminate a critical bottleneck to the port of Baltimore's booming container business, officials said.

[Read the article.](#)

July 30 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC to Trump: Come visit Baltimore

The Greater Baltimore Committee has invited President Donald Trump to visit Baltimore and see the city he has characterized as "rat and rodent infested mess" and a place where "no human being would want to live."

[Read the article.](#)

August 2019

Don Fry Commentaries

Aug. 1 WBAL News Radio 1090: President and CEO of Greater Baltimore Committee Comments on Trump's Tweets

Donald Fry, president and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, provided commentary on President Donald Trump's recent tweets criticizing Baltimore and Rep. Elijah Cummings.

[Listen to the commentary.](#)

Aug. 13 WBAL News Radio 1090: GBC Leader Hails Crime Plan

"Baltimore continues to see a high rates of violent crime, especially shootings and homicides," Don Fry said. "But a crime reduction strategy issued by the city's new police commissioner provides a road map to bring about change."

[Listen to the commentary.](#)

Aug. 16 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC head on 'must haves' for Greater Baltimore in next regional transit plan

It's been nearly three years since I co-published a commentary that noted that the Baltimore region's transportation system was failing to meet our economic needs. Unfortunately, there hasn't been significant improvement since then.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Aug. 22 The Daily Record: The Business Case for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The 2018 State of the Region Report released by the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council highlighted the rapid pace at which the Baltimore region is increasing in racial diversity.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

Aug. 9 Baltimore Business Journal: Baltimore's transportation system: How did we get here?

The story of Baltimore's transportation system is a story of what could have been.

[Read the article.](#)

Aug. 28 Baltimore Business Journal: Harborplace tour shows its neglect, disrepair, top city official says

The new head of the Baltimore Development Corp. said he saw broken doors, burned-out lights and old and damaged signage when he took a recent tour of Harborplace with the property's court-appointed receiver.

[Read the article.](#)

Aug. 28 The Daily Record: Greater Baltimore Committee to host first Bridging the Gap Summit

The Greater Baltimore Committee will hold its first Bridging the Gap Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit Oct. 21 at the SMC Campus Center at the

September 2019

Don Fry Commentaries

Sept. 26 The Daily Record: Expansion of Convention Center - An Opportunity We Can't Miss

The hospitality and tourism industry has been a primary economic driver of the Baltimore region for the past 40 years, fueled in part by the tens of thousands of visitors that meet at the Baltimore Convention Center each year. But the aging venue is at a crossroads due to the changing competitive landscape in the convention and tourism industry.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Sept. 27 WBAL News Radio 1090: Don Fry on What To Look For In Baltimore's Next Mayor

Fall is barely upon us, but already the race for Mayor of the City of Baltimore is beginning to take shape and voters need to pay attention.

[Listen to the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

Sept. 5 WYPR 88.1 FM GBC's Don Fry Talks On The Record About Regional Transportation

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, went on air on WYPR 88.1 FM on Sept. 5 to discuss what's needed in state transportation funding when it comes to the Baltimore region.

[Listen to the full audio.](#)

Sept. 9 Baltimore Business Journal: Why MTA's chief says Baltimore employers should stop subsidizing parking

Developers need to take transit into account when building new projects and employers should stop subsidizing parking, the head of the Maryland Transit Administration told business leaders.

[Read the article.](#)

Sept. 9 The Daily Record: Baltimore-area transit expected to reach just 50% of new jobs

The Baltimore region is expected to add a substantial number of jobs over the next 25 years, but many of them are likely to be based in places that transit can't access, according to speakers at the Greater Baltimore Committee's Transportation and Mobility summit meeting.

[Read the article.](#)

Sept. 19 The Daily Record: Considering transit, again

The Greater Baltimore Committee's recent Transportation Summit once again placed a spotlight on the need for the Baltimore area to invest in infrastructure critical to the region's economic progress. The program featured a panel of speakers providing national, state and regional perspectives. The larger message was to call for bold action. But there was also recognition of the pragmatism associated with making incremental progress.

[Read the article.](#)

Sept. 25 The Daily Record: Baltimore Area Apartment Demand Stays Strong Despite Slower Job Growth

Slow job growth proved a slight drag on the Baltimore metro area's multifamily

rent growth, but demand for rental properties remained solid, according to a report released by CBRE on Sept. 24.
[Read the article.](#)

October 2019

Don Fry Commentaries

Oct. 18 The Daily Record: Using Innovation to Fight Violent Crime

The headline of a recent editorial reads "Aerial surveillance is not the answer to Baltimore's crime problem." The headline gets it right, but the harsh wording of the editorial completely misses the point of the technology.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

Oct. 1 The Baltimore Sun: Have thoughts about Baltimore-Area transit? The MTA wants input on its plans for the next 25 years.

The Maryland Transit Administration is holding a series of open houses later this month — and business leaders are hosting a separate one — to ask the public how they think the next 25 years of transit should look for the Baltimore region.

[Read the article.](#)

Oct. 16 Greater Baltimore Committee comes out in strong support of surveillance planes; Harrison still skeptical

The Greater Baltimore Committee announced its "strong support" Wednesday for putting aerial surveillance planes above Baltimore, urging city officials to adopt the technology in an effort to reduce crime.

[Read the article.](#)

Oct. 31 Baltimore business leaders urge Hogan to increase MTA funding

Business leaders employing thousands of workers in Baltimore are urging Gov. Larry Hogan to increase funding to the Maryland Transit Administration for projects in the area, saying in a letter, "the inadequacy of the current transportation network is hindering workforce participation and economic potential in our region."

[Read the article.](#)

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