

December 2019



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

GBC in the News: November 2019 - December 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

November 2019

Don Fry Commentaries

Nov. 25 The Daily Record: Thanks to these generous businesses

Millions will travel near and far to celebrate one of the truly great American traditions, Thanksgiving. But there are many who do not have the financial or social resources to celebrate the holiday with a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. In fact, experts tells us that one in nine Marylanders is "food insecure," meaning they are unsure where their next meals will come from exactly. [Read the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage**Nov. 5 Reuters: Fed's Barkin: It's a good time to pause interest rates**

The U.S. Federal Reserve should hold interest rates steady for the time being after last week's cut in borrowing costs and assess how the economy evolves, Richmond Fed President Thomas Barkin said. [Read the article.](#)

Nov. 5 The Baltimore Sun: Amid recession worries, Maryland officials look forward to end of federal sequester

A recession might be looming, economists say, but Maryland Board of Revenue Estimates Director Andrew Schaufele believes the state's close ties to the federal government and the end of the federal sequester budget cuts in 2021 could buoy the state's economy. [Read the article.](#)

Nov. 5 MarketWatch: Fed's Barkin says recession is not imminent

There is a risk that U.S. businesses could convince themselves that bad times are around the corner and actually cause a downturn, said Richmond Federal Reserve President Thomas Barkin. [Read the article.](#)

Nov. 5 Bloomberg: Fed's Barkin: Now a Good Time to Pause and Observe Policy Impact

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond President Thomas Barkin says the central bank has taken out "insurance" against uncertainty facing the U.S. economy by cutting interest rates three times and "I hope we will see over the next six months the kind of impact you want to have." [Read the article.](#)

Nov. 13 The Daily Record: The Daily Record: Md. Lawmaker Wants Developer Campaign Cash Curbed in Howard Co.

A Maryland lawmaker intends to keep pushing legislation intended to ease development pressure on Howard County by restricting builders' ability to dole out campaign contributions. [Read the article.](#)

December 2019

Don Fry Commentaries**Dec. 23 Education Likely To Dominate General Assembly's Session**

While many are focused on the holiday celebrations and New Year's resolutions, elected state officials have their eyes set on the opening of the 2020 Maryland General Assembly session. [Read the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage**Dec. 3 Congressman Anthony G. Brown and Congresswoman Ann Wagner introduce MORE TOD Act**

Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) and Congresswoman Ann Wagner (MO-02) introduced the Maximizing Our Redevelopment and Efficiency for Transit Oriented Development (MORE TOD) Act on December 3, 2019. The bill, H.R. 5255, promotes community revitalization by recognizing existing transportation options and infrastructure as critical to Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) initiatives.
[Read the article.](#)

Dec. 5 The Baltimore Sun: Maryland, CSX find \$103M in extra funding to let 'double-stacked' freight move through Howard Street Tunnel

"We applaud the collaboration and hard work of the public and private entities whose persistence has made it possible," GBC President and CEO Donald C. Fry said in a statement. "Upon completion, the double-stacking capacity for freight rail will strengthen the economic competitiveness of the Port of Baltimore and result in significant economic growth and job creation for the region."

[Read the article.](#)

Dec. 13 Baltimore Business Journal: Saving Harborplace

For several decades, the Greater Baltimore Committee has been a staunch advocate for the Inner Harbor and Harborplace and continues to work to enhance its viability as a tourist destination and economic center for the region.

[Read the article.](#)

Dec. 20 Baltimore Business Journal: Baltimore Police Aim to Pilot Spy Plane Starting in May 2020

In October, the GBC issued a statement in support of the use of aerial surveillance in Baltimore as a tool for crime reduction in the city. On December 20, 2019, Baltimore Police Commissioner Michael Harrison announced at a press conference that, "[Baltimore] will be the first American city to use this technology in an attempt to solve and deter violent crime." The GBC commends Commissioner Harrison for his decision.

[Read the article.](#)

Dec. 24 Baltimore Business Journal: Year in Review 2019: What's happening with Harborplace heading into 2020

"The original success of Harborplace was founded on the Rouse strategy of signing tenants that were unique and attractive to local residents and visitors," said Greater Baltimore Committee CEO Donald C. Fry, as part of a Dec. 13 article on Harborplace in the BBJ. "It would be beneficial for the next chapter to incorporate this approach to draw city and regional residents back and help restore hometown pride."

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