



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

GBC in the News: May 2020 - June 2020

GBC Media Highlights

As the business community continues to navigate the many unexpected challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented, the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) remains committed to providing support for our members.

This support includes advocating for the interests of the business and civic communities, sharing relevant and timely COVID-19 information and resources on the [GBC website](#), and working to harness the collective power of the business community to assist with our economic recovery. This effort also includes the COVID-19 Business Recovery Advisory Council, which the GBC launched in June. You can learn more about the council in our [News Release](#).

In addition to this initiative, the GBC recently launched a multi-faceted program to help eradicate racial injustice and inequities. So far, this program has included a webinar on structural racism in America and a planned virtual business roundtable conversation about race, hosted by the GBC's Bridging the Gap Committee. This initiative comes in response to the brutal and senseless murder of George Floyd while in the custody of Minneapolis police, after which I released a statement outlining the GBC's commitment to eradicating racial inequities and injustice. Read the statement [here](#).

The GBC frequently receives requests from media outlets to provide insight, comment or perspective on a pressing topic or issue. This has not changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Reporters, editors and producers solicit our input and news because the GBC provides the unique private sector perspective and enjoys a reputation for providing informed and well thought out insight on important issues facing the state, region and Baltimore City.

As part of the effort to be an influential voice in the region, I also publish commentaries in The Daily Record, Baltimore Business Journal, and on WBAL News Radio 1090 AM/101.5 FM, as well as other 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**, which highlights some of the news media coverage we have received.

As always, I welcome your feedback and questions.

Be safe, stay healthy and positive.

Sincerely,



Donald C. Fry
President & CEO

May 2020

Don Fry Commentary

May 22 Don Fry Commentary in The Baltimore Sun: This is what we need from the next mayor

While the Greater Baltimore Committee does not endorse or financially support candidates for public office, we strongly believe that there are certain qualities that the next Mayor of Baltimore must possess to effectively lead the City in the midst of these uncertain times and unprecedented challenges.

[Read the commentary.](#)

May 26 BBJ: Greater Baltimore Committee: City needs a mayor who can 'measure up'

It is time for voters to take the lead, get involved and elect the mayoral candidate who can ensure Baltimore navigates the crossroads with the highest ethical standards.

[Read the commentary.](#)

May 29 Don Fry Commentary in The Daily Record: Mayoral candidates weigh in on fighting crime

Elections matter. They have consequences. Elections are not a spectator sport. With this in mind, the Greater Baltimore Committee launched a public service campaign in April called "In Their Words..." This educational election series, based on responses to questionnaires the GBC sent to candidates, aims to help inform voters about those running for Mayor and City Council President.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Media Coverage

May 18 Baltimore Sun: Baltimore City Council bill would require essential businesses pay workers premium during pandemic

Donald C. Fry, President of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said the business community is trying to assess the financial burden the legislation would create for essential employers. He said his group only learned about the bill a day before it was introduced, making it difficult to have serious discussions about the fiscal impact on companies doing business in Baltimore.

[Read the article.](#)

May 19 BBJ: Dr. Leana Wen: Businesses must do their part to reduce risks when offices reopen

Wen spoke to business leaders in the city on May 19 during an online webinar, sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Committee, about dealing with the novel coronavirus. Her comments came after Maryland began to relax its stay-at-home order and as business owners start to consider how and when to reopen offices.

[Read the article.](#)

May 19 The Daily Record: Wen warns Baltimore business leaders COVID lockdown lifting too soon

Donald C. Fry, GBC President and CEO, said Wen's address to members is part of the organization's work to provide "reliable guidance and information" during a crisis unlike the business community in the region's faced before.

[Read the article.](#)

May 19 FOX45: Proposed bill would give hazard pay to essential workers in Baltimore City

Donald Fry, President and CEO, of the Greater Baltimore Committee does not support the idea of city mandated pay increases. "The legislation and its financial implications would be detrimental to businesses that are providing essential services to citizens of Baltimore City..."

[Read the article.](#)

May 27 Baltimore Sun: Baltimore mayoral candidates zero in on violent crime during debate in race's closing days

In a forum hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee and WBAL-AM, the six leading Democratic candidates either sought to distance themselves from the violent status quo or pointed to work they've done while in office to address the problem.

[Read the article.](#)

May 27 BBJ: Six mayoral candidates share their plans for luring businesses to Baltimore

How would you go about wooing a big-league business to take a chance and invest in a move to Baltimore? That was one of several questions posed by Greater Baltimore Committee CEO Donald C. Fry to six leading Democratic mayoral candidates during an online debate May 27 sponsored by the organization and WBAL Radio.

[Read the article.](#)

May 27 The Daily Record: Baltimore mayoral candidates clash during GBC debate

For roughly an hour during the debate hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee and radio station WBAL, the top six aspirants shared their proposals to mend the city's various woes including crime, taxes and corruption. Candidates also addressed opponents' perceived weaknesses directly, and regularly mentioned the name of the target of those critiques.

[Read the article.](#)

June 2020

Don Fry Commentary

June 16 Don Fry Commentary on WBAL NewsRadio: 'An act of cruel injustice — plain and simple'

Like many across the country, I am deeply saddened and dismayed by the brutal and senseless murder of George Floyd while in the custody of Minneapolis police.

His murder was an act of cruel injustice — plain and simple.

The business community stands with all who demand justice for Mr. Floyd and his family.

[Listen to the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

June 4 BBJ: Greater Baltimore business groups issue renewed call to combat systemic racism

Donald Fry, CEO of the GBC, said the nonprofit business group was all-in on helping to solve the social problems of some of Baltimore's neediest residents. The GBC has had a Bridging the Gap program in place for nearly two decades and last year held a Diversity and Inclusion Summit downtown that drew more than 200.

[Read the article.](#)

June 8 BBJ: USM Chancellor Perman: 'We will not have Covid-free campuses.'

Additional safety measures come with major costs, Perman explained to a group of Baltimore business leaders during a webinar panel hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee June 8. He said all reopening plans will remain flexible and will revolve around the goal of having fewer bodies on campuses at any given time.

[Read the article.](#)

June 9 Maryland Matters: More Md. universities tentatively planning to reopen their campuses in the fall

During an online forum June 8 sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Committee, leaders of many higher education institutions in the Baltimore area said they are pursuing a hybrid system, which combines in-person instruction with remote learning.

[Read the article.](#)

June 9 The Daily Record: Md. university leaders say twin crises are taking a toll on campuses

At a panel discussion sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Committee on June 8, college leaders said they are promoting more mental health options and providing forums for participating in the national conversations about racism.

[Read the article.](#)

June 10 BBJ: UM Global Campus president: Online education could be key to making college affordable

"As I look into the future of higher [education], I don't think this will be an online versus onsite dichotomy, I think this will be an affordability issue," Miyares said to a group of more than 100 businesspeople who attended a webinar hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee.

[Read the article.](#)

June 17 The Daily Record: COVID-19 related supply chain woes boost Tradepoint Atlantic

Aaron Tomarchio, Tradepoint Atlantic's Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs, said strain placed on logistics networks by the new coronavirus outbreak increased firms' interest in opening facilities at the 3,300-acre peninsula in southeastern Baltimore County, which the company is transforming into one of the world largest multimodal logistics hubs.

"The market is responding to (those inefficiencies)," Tomarchio said during a Greater Baltimore Committee virtual Newsmaker event.

[Read the article.](#)

June 17 Baltimore Sun: Tradepoint Atlantic says pandemic isn't slowing growth at the Baltimore County distribution hub

Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, pressed for information about the challenges ahead for Tradepoint, and Tomarchio said public transportation access to the site continues to be "one of our core challenges." Tomarchio thanked the Maryland Transit Administration for rolling out a bus route in 2018, but he stressed "there's more we can do to help better connect everybody throughout the region."

[Read the article.](#)

June 26 BBJ: Here's where employers can start in addressing structural racism in the workplace

Diane Bell-McKoy shared some essential questions with an online audience of nearly 200 Baltimore businesspeople June 26 during a Greater Baltimore Committee webinar largely focused on the role that structural racism plays in perpetuating wage and other achievement gaps between white and Black folks in America, and in Baltimore. She was joined in the discussion by Sheridan Todd Yeary, Senior Pastor of Douglas Memorial Community Church and Affiliates.

[Read the article.](#)

June 29 The Daily Record: MD5G Partnership launches in support of 5G deployment throughout Md.

A group of Maryland's technology, civic and business leadership announced June 25 the

formation of the MD5G Partnership, a coalition to create more connected communities through communications infrastructure and 5G connectivity.

[Read the article.](#)

June 30 BBJ: Why this Baltimore pastor thinks broadband internet should be a public utility

The lack of internet access and digital devices in many low-income communities and communities of color in the U.S., commonly referred to as the "digital divide," is among the many socioeconomic issues that has been highlighted and exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis.

[Read the article.](#)

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