



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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

GBC in the News: July 2020 - September 2020

2020 GBC Media Highlights

Valued Member:

Through the uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought over the past months, the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) has remained committed to providing support for our members. The pandemic has impacted the business community in ways that were unexpected. However, businesses are adapting, and I am confident that we will make it through while learning a few things along the way.

The GBC frequently receives requests from local and national media outlets to provide insight, comment or perspective on a pressing topic or issue. This has been no different during the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 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**.

As always, I welcome your feedback and questions.

Be safe, stay healthy and positive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald C. Fry". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Donald C. Fry
President & CEO

July 2020

Don Fry Commentary

July 31 Don Fry Commentary in the Baltimore Sun: Pandemic underscores Maryland's need for 5G Network

Solving this problem begins with the deployment of wireless infrastructure. With the support of individuals, organizations, community and elected leaders, we can foster innovation in our region and ensure our communities are better prepared to face whatever yet-to-be-imagined challenges lie in wait.

[Read the commentary.](#)

July 31 Don Fry Commentary in The Daily Record: 5G technology is Maryland's future

Maryland is not there yet, which is why the Greater Baltimore Committee recently signed on to the MD5G Partnership to support the expansion of 5G, educate Marylanders on the infrastructure required to meet the demands of our state's future, and emphasize the importance of statewide solutions.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Media Coverage

July 15 The Baltimore Sun: Baltimore business leaders detail ongoing fallout from coronavirus pandemic

Business leaders took part in a virtual forum July 15 hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee to discuss the state of the city's restaurant, tourism and travel industries.

[Read the article.](#)

July 16 BBJ: Racanelli, other industry leaders share insights during GBC panel

The GBC panel also included insights from Visit Baltimore CEO Al Hutchinson, Sagamore Pendry Hotel General Manager Juan Webster and Jim Kinney, a managing partner at the Capital Grille. Despite recent partial reopenings for restaurants, hotels and tourist attractions, the tourism industry continues to suffer, Hutchinson said.

[Read the article.](#)

August 2020

Media Coverage

August 20 The Daily Record: As construction continues, Seawall tweaks Lexington Market plan

Seawall told city business leaders during a Greater Baltimore Committee Newsmaker event August 20 that the new building's foundation is complete, which sets the stage for the company to start assembling the structure's frame.

[Read the article.](#)

August 20 BBJ: Lexington Market developers ask business leaders for financial boost

Manekin and his team presented a "call to action" to the GBC membership that will help drive the new era for the historic market that has served nine generations of local residents.

[Read the article.](#)

August 26 BBJ: Pimlico redevelopment leaders confident that project will move ahead despite Covid-19

In an August 26 webinar hosted by the Greater Baltimore Committee, Senate President Bill Ferguson said he's less anxious about the project's prospects than he was earlier this spring.

[Read the article.](#)

August 27 Baltimore Fishbowl: Pimlico makeover repositions racetrack as events venue, community hub

Advocates for Pimlico's overhaul spoke about the property's future during a Newsmaker Speaker Series talk conducted online and sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Committee: "A Win for Baltimore: The Renovation of Pimlico and Preserving the Preakness."

[Read the article.](#)

September 2020

Media Coverage

September 11 Baltimore Sun: Five years later, many across Baltimore bitterly lament Gov. Hogan's decision to kill the Red Line light rail

The project had already received an "enormous amount of economic analysis" by federal authorities who selected it as one of only six major transit projects nationally to receive funding, said Don Fry, president and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, a pro-business group.

[Read the article.](#)

September 16 BBJ: Baltimore City Council bills aim to help laid-off hospitality workers reclaim their jobs

"The timing of this legislation is concerning," Fry wrote. "Commercial property employers, event center employers and hotel employers are facing significant loss of revenue in their operations because of the COVID-19 pandemic. These industry sectors are particularly hard hit from the economic downturn... The imposition of additional regulations upon them when surrounding jurisdictions do not have such rules would create a competitive disadvantage for these businesses."

[Read the article.](#)

September 17 Baltimore Brew: Bills would put laid-off Baltimore hospitality workers first in line to get jobs back

"Such an expansion of government regulation is unacceptable as it seeks to hinder legitimate business decisions made by a private sector business in the hiring of personnel," Fry wrote in his own letter.

[Read the article.](#)

September 21 BBJ: Former Baltimore mayors bemoan city having 'more will than wallet'

"This recession is going to be worse than the last one," said Sheila Dixon, mayor from January 2007 to February 2010, during an online forum held Sept. 21 by the Greater Baltimore Committee.

[Read the article.](#)

September 21 Baltimore Sun: Former Baltimore mayors oppose government restructuring proposals introduced by the likely next mayor

They were asked about two bills proposed by City Council President Brandon Scott, who is heavily favored to be the city's next mayor after November's general election.

[Read the article.](#)

September 23 Maryland Matters: Former Baltimore Mayors oppose proposed City government reforms

Former Democratic mayors Martin J. O'Malley, Sheila A. Dixon, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Kurt L. Schmoke slammed proposals to reduce the size of the city's Board of Estimates

and introduce a city administrator during an online discussion with the Greater Baltimore Committee on Sept. 21.

[Read the article.](#)

September 27 Citybizlist: A Q&A with Don Fry, President & CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee

Nevins & Associates President and CEO, David Nevins, sat down with Don Fry, former state legislator and President/CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee. They discussed the GBC's past and present projects, the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and more.

[Read the article.](#)

September 30 Baltimore Sun: MTA cancels proposal to slash bus service in Baltimore after heavy criticism; will cut MARC, commuter bus service instead

"This action reflects an egregious pattern of disinvestment in underserved communities in the Baltimore region where Black and Brown residents are reliant on already insufficient transit service," said Don Fry, president and CEO of the pro-business group.

[Read the article.](#)

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