



# GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



## March 2021 - April 2021

### *2021 GBC Media Highlights*

Valued Member:

The first third of the year is in the books. The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is off to a fast start with a busy and productive year having completed an active General Assembly session and many successful events, programs and projects underway.

We continue to adapt to a hybrid remote working environment by hosting committee meetings, Newsmaker Speaker Series programs and other events in a virtual setting. This year's **Annual Meeting will be held on May 18 at 9 a.m. featuring keynote speaker Thomas Friedman** highlighting changes that may arise in a post-COVID world and how the business community can take the lead with these changes. I hope that you will join us for this year's Annual Meeting.

The GBC 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 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,



Donald C. Fry  
President & CEO

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## March 2021

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### Media Coverage

#### **3/18 BBJ: Penn Station, midtown redevelopment projects could top \$500M, begin this spring**

The Penn Station development team outlined the project during the March 18 Greater Baltimore Committee-sponsored webinar that is part of its ongoing Newsmaker series. They showed a series of renderings by design and architecture firm Gensler of the updates and additions to the Penn Station footprint that would convert it into a high-gloss, modern transit hub.

[Read the article.](#)

#### **3/18 Baltimore Sun: Amtrak and developers push ahead with transformation of Baltimore's Penn Station**

Work on Penn Station is expected to start later this spring, representatives of Amtrak and the development team said March 18 during a virtual presentation organized by the Greater Baltimore Committee.

[Read the article.](#)

#### **3/19 The Architect's Newspaper: Gensler's updated Amtrak station in Baltimore will provide 'a window onto history'**

The latest designs were unveiled during a virtual meeting organized by the Greater Baltimore Committee, a civic group that has been instrumental in previous large-scale renewal projects such as Charles Center and the Inner Harbor.

[Read the article.](#)

#### **3/19 Baltimore Fishbowl: Developers aim to begin construction this spring on Penn Station improvements**

Redevelopment of the station and surrounding area is long overdue, Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald Fry said.

[Read the article.](#)

#### **3/21 WJZ-TV: Baltimore's Penn Station Getting \$90M Upgrade This Spring**

"This is a transformational project that could really turn what has been a 100 year old railroad station into a regional transportation hub," said Donald Fry, Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO.

[Watch the video.](#)

#### **3/22 Baltimore Sun names GBC President & CEO Don Fry and Board members to 2021 Hall of Fame**

The Baltimore Sun has named Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, and five GBC Board members to its 2021 Business and Civic Hall of Fame.

[Read the article.](#)

### **3/22 Chesapeake Connect Podcast: Making Regionalism Work**

Learn how public and private sector leaders are working together to promote a safe, connected and competitive region.

[Listen to the podcast.](#)

### **3/25 Baltimore Fishbowl: Fate of controversial 'Male/Female' sculpture 'to be determined,' developers say**

There's "one question that is always a topic of discussion when we think about Penn Station," Don Fry said. "What is the future in the overall plans for the Man/Woman statue that is in front of the building?"

[Read the article.](#)

### **3/25 Baltimore Women's Advisory Board Study: Managing the Pandemic**

With a team of researchers, we are seeking to understand how employees, and particularly women, in the Greater Baltimore area (and beyond) are coping.

[Read the article.](#)

### **3/26 Baltimore Sun Commentary: Here's how Baltimore should help businesses rebound after the pandemic**

Local business groups, including the Downtown Partnership, Greater Baltimore Committee and Baltimore Development Corporation, have been studying the challenges — and offering solutions for them.

[Read the article.](#)

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## **April 2021**

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### **Don Fry Commentary**

#### **4/13 Baltimore mayor needs to spend \$670M stimulus 'gift' wisely**

Recognizing that this influx of funds will not be replicated, it is vital to make expenditures that will not create ongoing costs for the city, but instead will provide a vital boost to strategic priorities that the city has not had the financial capacity to invest in.

[Read the commentary.](#)

### **Don Fry Commentary**

#### **4/29 Baltimore's silent crisis: Fatal opioid overdoses**

The Greater Baltimore Committee's Health Care Committee determined in 2018 that employers should play a key role in helping manage opioid use and abuse, particularly among employees and their families.

[Read the commentary.](#)

### **Media Coverage**

#### **4/5 Patch: TU, Greater Baltimore Committee to study economic impact of COVID-19**

The ramifications from the novel coronavirus pandemic will likely be widespread and long felt. Towson University and the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) want to better understand some of those effects.

[Read the article.](#)

#### **4/8 GBC, WBAL NewsRadio host Town Hall discussion on Post-Pandemic Economy**

GBC President & CEO Donald C. Fry discussed the outlook for the Baltimore and regional economy as it recovers from the pandemic.

[Read the article.](#)

[Listen to the Town Hall.](#)

#### **4/12 Baltimore Sun: Employees at some Baltimore businesses are finally heading back to the office, but many will keep working from home**

"The future of the central business district is still strong," GBC's Don Fry said. "We just need to give it more attention to make sure it can be more competitive with other business hubs."

[Read the article.](#)

#### **4/19 Technical.ly: GBC welcomes 33 emerging leaders to its Next Up program**

Programming for 2021 will include seminar-style talks from business, civic and government leaders in the region, in-depth discussions of local and regional business and civic issues and networking opportunities.

[Read the article.](#)

#### **4/20 BBJ: Maryland issues first RFP to move state offices downtown**

In total, 12 state agencies with 3,300 total employees will eventually move from their decrepit offices at State Center in Midtown.

[Read the article.](#)

#### **4/20 Maryland Reporter: Hogan to move 3,300 state employees to downtown Baltimore**

The proposal would be funded with \$50 million in funds that came into the state's supplemental budget through the federal government.

[Read the article.](#)

#### **4/20 Baltimore Sun: Gov. Hogan: State moving thousands of workers to downtown Baltimore office spaces**

Gov. Hogan framed the move as "a shot in the arm" for the economy of downtown Baltimore, where vacancies in office buildings have been on the rise during the coronavirus pandemic.

[Read the article.](#)

#### **4/20 BBJ: Business leaders get details of Mayor Scott's new data-focused violence reduction plan**

The five-year plan by Mayor Brandon Scott is still being formalized, but centers on declaring violence in the city a public health crisis and addressing it as such, with data and new strategies for intervention.

[Read the article.](#)

#### **4/26 BBJ: Harborplace nears two years in receivership, frustrating Baltimore business, political leaders**

"The GBC has been concerned about the court receivership situation with Harborplace and the lack of progress for more than a year," GBC President & CEO Don Fry said.

[Read the article.](#)

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