



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



May 2021 - June 2021

2021 GBC Media Highlights

Dear Valued Member:

During the first half of 2021, the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) continued to pivot and adapt well in response to the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fact, the GBC has had a very busy and productive year, including a number of successes during the Maryland General Assembly session and a well-attended and compelling Annual Meeting in May.

The entire GBC staff returned recently to an office environment, but for the balance of the summer months we plan to continue to offer a hybrid remote environment for committee meetings, events and programs. We hope to return to "in person" meetings, events and programs following Labor Day, although the option for members to attend some of these activities remotely is under consideration.

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 voice and enjoys a reputation for providing informed perspectives on important issues facing the state, region and city. The GBC also periodically issues Media Releases and Media Alerts to announce major initiatives and positions on topical issues so journalists are made aware of these and can report on them.

Also, as part of the ongoing effort to be an influential voice in the region, I publish commentaries in The Daily Record, Baltimore Business Journal, and

provide a commentary for 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

May 2021

Media Coverage

5/18 Baltimore Sun: Baltimore City plans to lift mask mandate when 65% of adult residents have received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine

The GBC said it is encouraging all residents to get vaccinated as soon as possible so that city businesses can be "on equal footing with businesses and employers in other jurisdictions."

[Read the article.](#)

5/18 Baltimore Sun: Baltimore business leaders call for greater push against racial, social injustice

The GBC and many of its business members have taken steps in the past year to begin to close inequity gaps and engage more segments of the city and region, Calvin Butler said.

[Read the article.](#)

5/19 Maryland Matters: GBC Promotes Diversity at Annual Meeting

GBC President & CEO Donald C. Fry said that when local business leaders formed the organization 66 years ago, their mantra was "problem-solving, solutions and results."

[Read the article.](#)

5/19 The Daily Record: Often rivals, 4 Maryland institutions honored for pandemic efforts, collaboration

The Regional Visionary Award seeks to celebrate individuals and organizations that have "significantly contributed to the betterment of the Greater Baltimore region."

[Read the article.](#)

5/20 Baltimore Fishbowl: As Baltimore decides the fate of the provocative Male/Female Sculpture, its creator weighs in

Moving the Male/Female sculpture could cost \$150,000 to \$250,000, says artist Jonathan Borofsky, and that's even before anyone knows where to move

it.

[Read the article.](#)

5/24 WBAL NewsRadio: Greater Baltimore Committee to focus on racial equity and social justice in the coming year [Audio]

Calvin Butler, GBC Chair and Senior Executive Vice President, Exelon and Chief Executive Officer, Exelon Utilities, discussed the GBC's continued leadership role in advancing racial equity and social justice.

[Read the article.](#)

5/27 The Daily Record: Baltimore police leader urges reformers to move carefully

Baltimore City Police Commissioner Michael Harrison cautioned that calls for defunding or dramatically reforming the police department need to be tempered with realistic expectations about how to maintain important services.

[Read the article.](#)

5/28 Baltimore Sun Commentary: Racial inclusion and equity is good for Baltimore business

For Baltimore to deal with its own racial inequities, it needs the buy-in of all the city's stakeholders — community groups, residents, government officials and religious institutions.

[Read the article.](#)

June 2021

Don Fry Commentary in The Baltimore Sun

6/9 -- Baltimore region should celebrate its return to the Fortune 500 — then get to work leveraging it

The 2021 Fortune 500 list, which came out June 2, has not one but *three* Baltimore area companies on it: McCormick & Co. Inc. and Sinclair Broadcast Group Inc., both headquartered in Baltimore County; and T. Rowe Price Group Inc., which is based in the city. This is cause for well-deserved applause and celebration at the companies themselves and the region on the whole.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Don Fry Commentary in The Daily Record

6/25 -- Baltimore police reform is progressing

Baltimore Police Commissioner Michael Harrison, who took Baltimore's top law enforcement job in 2019, is to be commended for the steady documented progress the department has made. It's important to note that the department was implementing many of the reforms while juggling the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic and local protests spurred by the murder of George Floyd just more than a year ago.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Don Fry Commentary in the Baltimore Business Journal

6/28 -- Building a path from workforce training to jobs is key

There will be significant growth in the availability of jobs that require less than a four-year college degree, such as a specialized certification or an associate's degree. Focused and relevant job training programs are the key to preparing applicants for these jobs. Without enough qualified applicants for these positions, economic growth and competitiveness could be hindered.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Media Coverage

6/14 -- Baltimore Sun: RBC Wealth Management is latest to move offices from downtown Baltimore to Harbor Point

"Like many cities, Baltimore is fortunate to have a number of business hubs that are attractive to growing business operations, including Harbor Point and the central downtown area," GBC President & CEO Don Fry said.

[Read the article.](#)

6/14 -- BBJ: Wealth management firm is the latest company to leave downtown for Harbor Point

The migrations eastward to newer commercial developments by some companies has led downtown stakeholders to ponder retention strategies for the older areas. Donald Fry, CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, said RBC Wealth's decision to remain in the city was a plus.

[Read the article.](#)

6/22 -- WBAL NewsRadio: Don Fry on the importance of 3 Baltimore area companies making the Fortune 500 list **[Audio]**

For the first time in almost a decade, greater Baltimore has a presence on the Fortune 500 list of the largest public companies. Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald C. Fry talks about the impact of this announcement.

[Listen to the audio.](#)

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