

# 7 Our Response: Key Bridge Collapse

In response to the Key Bridge collapse in March 2024, GBC partnered with the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF), Governor Wes Moore, and regional leaders to form the Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong Alliance—uniting more than 130 partners and raising over \$16 million for relief.

BCF has already disbursed nearly \$8 million to support direct relief, small business recovery, community resilience, and remembrance efforts. This reflects a comprehensive approach that addresses both immediate needs and long-term recovery.

The collapse underscored the port’s central role in the regional economy. Manufacturing—one of the Baltimore Region’s top growth priorities in GBC’s 10-Year Plan—depends on efficient port access to compete globally. Restoring the Key Bridge is critical to sustaining our manufacturing base and long-term competitiveness.

GBC reinforced this priority by joining state and local leaders at the collapse site and elevating the bridge’s reconstruction as a core infrastructure project. To sustain momentum, we have also established an Infrastructure Committee to champion major investments vital to the region’s economic future.



# 8&9 Improving Public Safety

Over the past few years, Baltimore has seen a significant drop in crime across nearly every category—a testament to the collective leadership of city, regional, and state officials, and strong collaboration with private, nonprofit, and philanthropic partners.

In close partnership with the Baltimore Police Department (BPD), GBC identified two areas where the business community can drive meaningful change: reducing gun violence and strengthening police recruitment and retention—challenges facing cities nationwide.

Additionally, our partners have been critical supporters of community violence intervention efforts, which have contributed to this progress and helped position historically disinvested neighborhoods for broader investment.

In 2023, GBC developed data dashboards and reports to keep our board and stakeholders informed on public safety trends, and we continue to work with BPD and regional leaders to implement targeted strategies that support officers and help rebuild the force.



“After years of decline, Baltimore is making major inroads in public safety—with a 39% drop in homicides since 2022 and a 33% decrease over the past year. GBC and its members have supported this momentum through collaboration, recruitment efforts, media partnerships, and convening experts to ensure we stay on this path. Baltimore is ready to shed its outdated reputation and show the world it is open for business.”

—William Moore

Co-Chair, Gun Violence Steering Committee, President, Southway Builders



“Our police recruitment task force brought together HR experts from top Baltimore organizations to support the City’s recruitment efforts. The Commissioner and BPD were receptive to our suggestions, and we continue working together to help the force grow and better serve Baltimore City and its citizens.”

—Gary Attman

Co-Chair, Police Officer Recruitment and Retention Committee, President and CEO, FutureCare