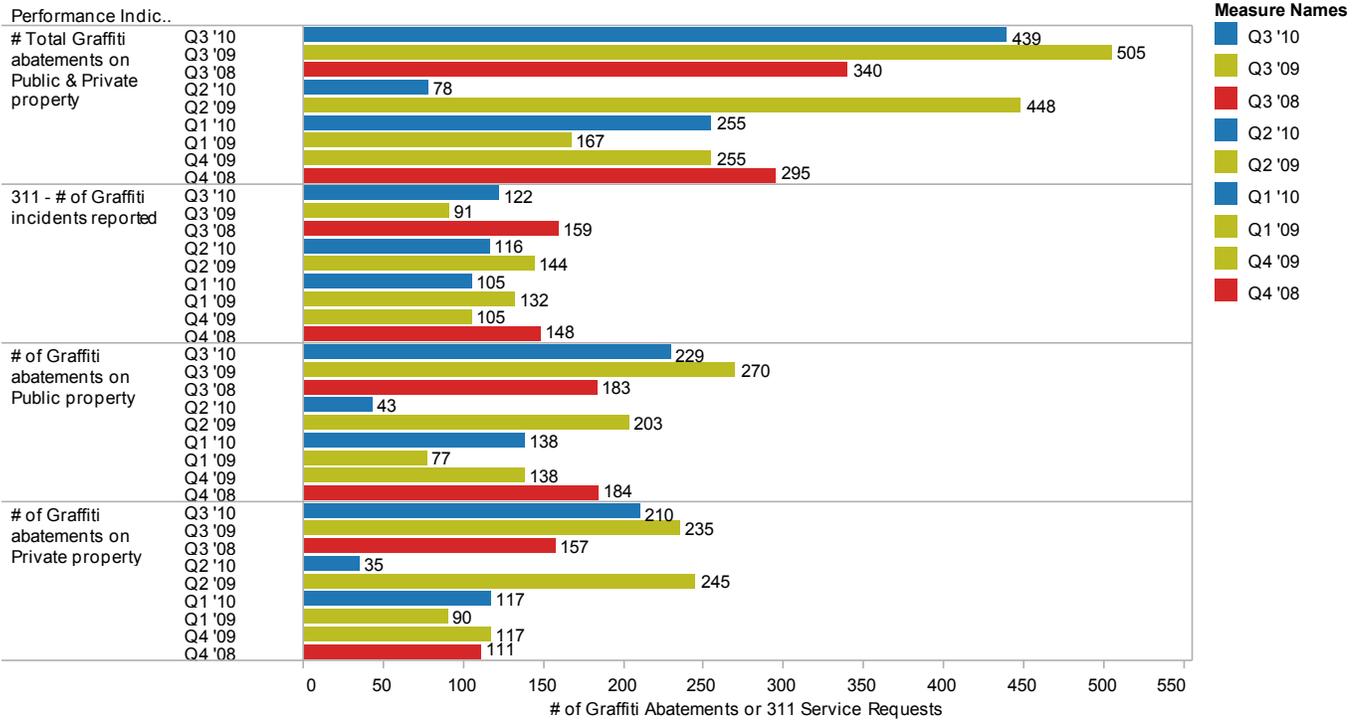


Department of Public Works Graffiti Abatements



Mayor Ravenstahl AGENDA GOAL: Safe and Clean Neighborhoods - Reduce the environment for crime; Increase civic involvement and transparency.

DESCRIPTION: Department of Public Works (DPW) staff, and Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) Code Inspectors, are responsible for ensuring that the surface appearance of public and private structures are visually appropriate. Graffiti reporting and abatement may be influenced by the physical and demographic characteristics of each reporting jurisdiction. At neighborhood meetings and within brochures, Pittsburgher's are asked to call 911 immediately when witnessing an act of graffiti. However, when existing graffiti vandalism is observed, customers are to call the 311 Service Center.

ANALYSIS: The Q3 '10 data is indicating a 13% decrease in graffiti abatements, over the previous year's Jul-Aug-Sep performance. The number of incidents "found" by the public and reported has increased after 5 consecutive quarter comparison year-to-year decreases. It is worth noting that the number of graffiti incidents reported to 311 remains significantly less than the number of abatements. This indicates that those involved with graffiti removal, which is including more community volunteers, are proactive in finding and removing the vandalism as well as bringing it to the attention of the City through a 311 service request.