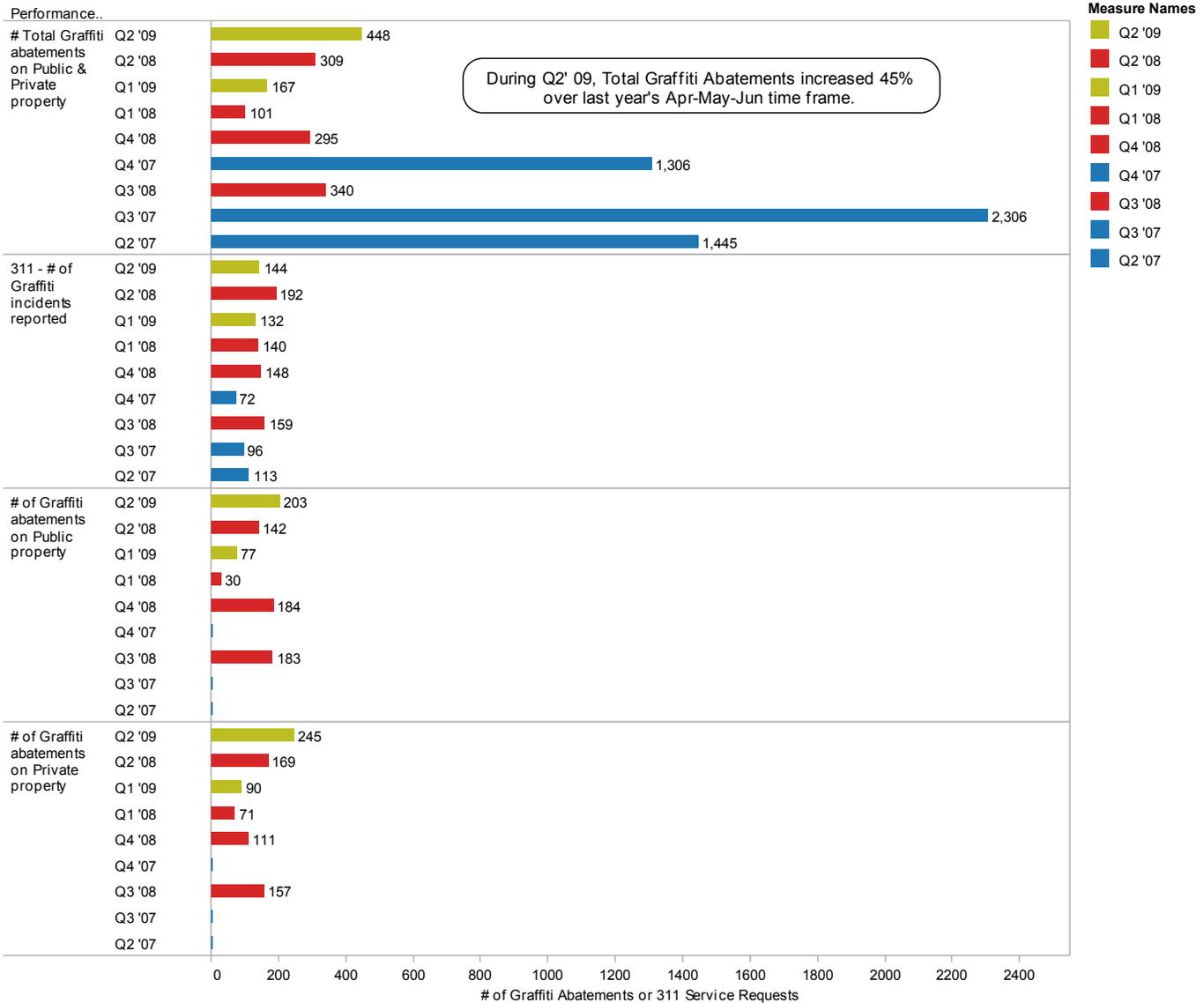


## Department of Public Works Graffiti Abatements



**Mayor Ravenstahl AGENDA GOAL: Community Safety - Reduce the environment for crime; Increase citizen participation with Code Enforcement.**

**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, political, 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 Q2' 09 data is indicating a 45% increase in graffiti abatements, over the previous year's quarter. The number of incidents reported continues decreasing approximately 10% for the fifth consecutive quarter. 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 are proactive in finding and removing the vandalism without waiting for a customer to bring it to the attention of 311. The Mayor's desire, however, is for more citizen participation with graffiti accountability.