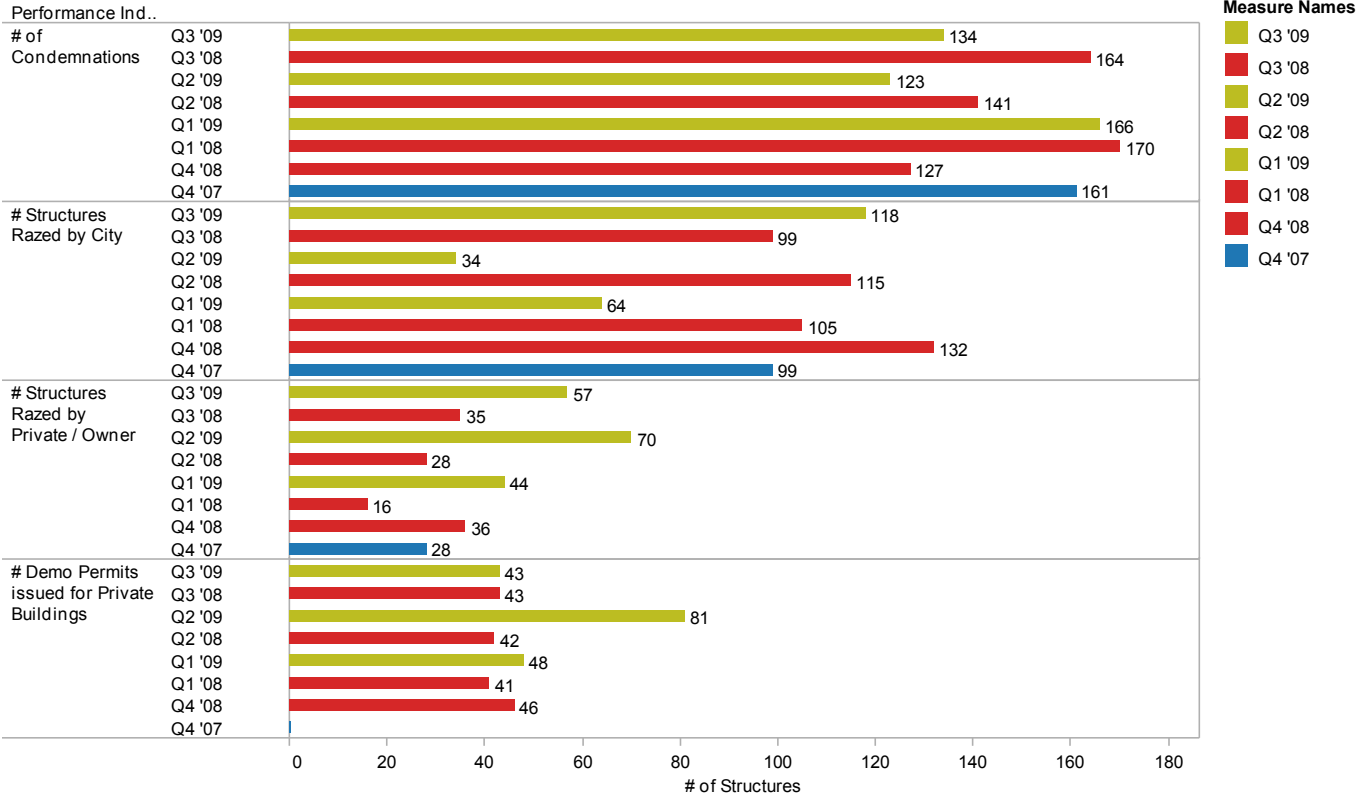


Bureau of Building Inspection Building Condemnations & Demolitions



Mayor Ravenstahl AGENDA GOAL: Safe and Clean Neighborhoods - Reduce the environment for crime; Strengthen neighborhoods.

DESCRIPTION: Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) staff are responsible for ensuring the safety of all public and private buildings and property within the City. The "Condemnation" category indicates dangerous building code violations exist. Typically, code violations that result in a condemnation status may endanger the life, limb, health, morals, property, safety, or welfare of the general public, or the building's occupants. Condemned buildings will either be required to be repaired (abated), vacated, or demolished (razed). However, the City can not itself raze a building unless it has the legal right and the funds to do so. Some condemnation cases must be resolved with legal action mindful of due process for owners (local and absentee) and residents. Navigating a path through the district magisterial court system can significantly impact the delay in resolving building and property violations.

ANALYSIS: The Q3' 09 data is indicating a 19% increase in buildings razed over the same period last year, and more than doubling the number razed during Q2' 09. Condemnations and Private Building Demo Permits continue at very healthy levels to support anticipated demolitions. Razing buildings is consistent with the Mayor's goal of using BBI staff to reduce the environment for crime by dealing with neighborhood blight. BBI continues to track demolitions of private structures and the impact of the court system on the condemnation & demolition timeline. As blight is reduced neighborhoods are strengthened and economic development follows.